

YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
October 1, 1997
8:00 A.M.
Hooper Bay, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chairman
Paul John, Vice Chairman
Fritz L. George, Secretary
Paul Manumik, Sr., Member
Ilarion J. Nicolai, Member
Billy McCann, Member
James A. Charles, Member
John B. Thompson, Sr., Member
David O. David, Member
Lester Wilde, Member
John W. Andrew, Coordinator

Chuck Hunt, Interpreter
Leo Moses, Interpreter

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:45 a.m)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. (In Yup'ik)

MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik, Sr.?

MR. MANUMIK: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Ilarion Nicolai?

MR. NICOLAI: Here.

MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) Steven White?

MR. ANDREW: Absent.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excused.

MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

MR. DAVID: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

MR. McCANN: Yep.

MR. GEORGE: James A. Charles?

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Johnnie Thompson, Sr.?

MR. THOMPSON: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

MR. JOHN: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Mr. Wilde, Lester Wilde?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik), one excused.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, quorum (In Yup'ik).

2

3 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik) (Invocation)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

6 Introduction and welcome. (In Yup'ik)

7

8 MAYOR SMITH: He's very thankful that everybody has
9 arrived here, and he's trying to make sure that everybody is
10 comfortable. While everybody's at this meeting, you'll have to
11 work on things that people are concerned about. If any people
12 have anything to say, or questions, make sure you ask the
13 questions to these people. And if there's any problem, and if
14 we can't resolve something, then we can work on it at a later
15 date in the agenda. And try to follow all of the items on the
16 agenda, because when you're going from one agenda item to
17 another, it gets kind of confusing. But when they're following
18 it, and it makes it much more easier to work on that subject
19 until it is resolved and completed. But here at this meeting,
20 we are giving the Council things that they might be able to
21 work on. And to make sure that if you have any problems, make
22 sure that you voice your opinions at this meeting. For these
23 people that are here to attend the meeting, and we have very
24 good understanding of hunting and fishing, and we are here in
25 Hooper Bay, and it's a large village. There's about 150 --
26 1,500 people. But there does not seem to be too many people
27 here this morning. Eventually there might be more. And thank
28 you very much for being here.

29

30 CHIEF SMART: Make sure that you try to understand what
31 is going on, and if you want to speak in Yup'ik, you can go
32 ahead and speak in Yup'ik, because it will be translated. And
33 if you have any questions, make sure you ask those questions,
34 and they'll be answered. And thank you very much.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This morning I would also like to
37 address and thank the people in Hooper Bay for giving us
38 permission to hold our meeting here.

39

40 I'd like to explain a couple of things, especially
41 about the Council members here. It's interpreted as Yukon-
42 Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Council, and their job is
43 to address the issues involving subsistence hunting and
44 fishing, and the State -- the Council is not involved with
45 anything that has to do with State management. But we are
46 working on the concerns of the people out in the villages
47 regarding subsistence, and these people are appointed by the
48 Secretary of Interior.

49

Also, these members, they are needed to be able to work

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1 on establishing rules and regulations for management of
2 subsistence resources. Every year the Federal Government
3 changes the rules and regulations, and the Council here usually
4 reviews these regulations and makes recommendations, and a lot
5 of times they do support a lot of these proposals that are made
6 for subsistence functions on federal lands. And these Council
7 members, they don't all just represent their regions and their
8 villages, that they represent -- but they represent all the
9 villages in the Y-K Delta. And they usually support all of the
10 concerns and issues in regards to subsistence resources
11 throughout the Y-K Delta. I just want to make sure that people
12 understand that.

13
14 And secondly, I will speak of this in Yup'ik -- or in
15 English.

16
17 And he's also talking about the new appointed members
18 of the Council, and he wants to meet these new members. First,
19 Billy McCann, and James Charles. Billy McCann's from Bethel.
20 James is from Tuntutuliak. And John B. Thompson is from
21 St. Marys.

22
23 INTERPRETER: Now he's translating it into Yup'ik.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And we are very pleased to have you on
26 board. (In Yup'ik) Again, welcome you to Yukon-Kuskokwim
27 Federal Subsistence Advisory Council.

28
29 (Applause)

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) He's just said he'll try
32 to do these things, review of the agenda in English. He has
33 sometimes difficulty in translating some of this into English,
34 but he'll do his best as he can. Review and adoption of
35 minutes of October 2 and 3, 1996, and February 5, 1997.

36
37 INTERPRETER: He's reviewing the agenda at the present
38 time. He's going from item number five, number six. And he
39 says that the coordinator will be assisting him at times.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Agenda item number 7, election of
42 officers. Tab B and tab C, I don't know what they are, but --
43 oh, it's in your booklet. Many of these agenda items are in
44 the booklets, and it's explained in the booklets.

45
46 Election of officers, tab C in your booklets. A.
47 Chairman, Andrew presiding. B, vice chairman, new chair
48 presiding. C, secretary. D, sergeant of arm.

49

INTERPRETER: The officers to be elected will be

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1 elected will be chairman, vice chairman, secretary and sergeant
2 at arms.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Open the floor for public comment on
5 Federal Subsistence Management Program. This opportunity will
6 be continued through the meeting. Please fill out testifiers
7 form if possible.

8

9 And now we'll go down to old business. A. Update
10 implementation of subsistence fishery, Brelsford. I hope I
11 pronounced that last name right. Tab D. Question and
12 discussion.

13

14 B. Annual report 1996, further issues to be added.
15 Andrew and Wilde. Tab E. 1. Whitefish. 2. King salmon. 3.
16 Kuskokwim moose. 4. Regional issues to be added.

17

18 C. How are the local animal populations doing, Steve
19 Kovach.

20

21 D. Additional c&t Council concern. Six village to be
22 considered for t&c for moose and caribou and bear. 2. RFR in
23 Unit 22A, caribou. Public testimony needed.

24

25 E. Reports. 1. Yukon Delta NWR, refuge management
26 Mike Rearden. a. Steel shot update. b. Emperor goose status.
27 And c is chowa (ph), metkada (ph). What's that, c?

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Spectacled eider.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Spectacled eider. Okay. d. Brown
32 collaring project. e. Waterfowl banding project. f. Mulchatna
33 and Kilbuck caribou herd status. g. other project.

34

35 2. Togiak DWR, Dave Fisher. Is Dave Fisher here? Uh-
36 hum. a. Walrus monitoring. b. Seabird monitoring. c. Moose
37 and caribou in Units 17, 17A and part of 18. d. Nushagak
38 caribou. e. PUMP program.

39

40 3. Bureau of Land Management, Jeff Denton.

41

42 4. Association of Village Council Presidents, Tim
43 Andrew. a. Natural Resource activity report. b. Brown bear
44 proposal in Unit 18. c. Caribou proposal in Unit 18.

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, before you continue, I
47 notice our elders don't have translators. Could you tell them
48 that they could have translators?

49

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Oh, yeah. (In Yup'ik)

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1 INTERPRETER: Taylor, the earphones are right there in
2 that box. We're just getting the people that don't understand
3 English, to make sure that they have translators. Well, I'm
4 translating for some of these non-natives that don't understand
5 Yup'ik into English. And for the recorder.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Then the next item on the report is
8 number 5, Alaska Department of Fish & Game. And the last item
9 under reports is number six, others.

10
11 Number F is Task Force report on the Federal
12 Subsistence Board restructure. That's under Tab F of the
13 handbook.

14
15 Number G is Task Force Report, the State memorandum of
16 agreement, which is under tab G of the handbook.

17
18 Number ten agenda item, new business. Under A is
19 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, which is set for April 7th
20 through 10th, 1997. And that will be presented by Chairman
21 Harry Wilde.

22
23 Number B is orientation training material, Secretary
24 George and Coordinator Andrew will talk about that.

25
26 And C, finally, is call for proposals, which is under
27 tab H of the handbook. Number one is from the public, (2) from
28 the agencies, (3) from the Regional Council. Customary and
29 traditional backlog up date by McClenahan. And (b) is deferred
30 proposals, for information only.

31
32 Agenda item number 10.D is Regional Council charter,
33 overview of items to which Regional Council recommend changes,
34 and that's by Andrew. And if there's any changes that are
35 approved.

36
37 E. Regulatory year schedule, under tab J of the
38 handbook.

39
40 F is Governor's Task Force, AFN, AITC and RuralCAP
41 Subsistence Summit meeting.

42
43 And number G is any other new business, Regional
44 Council travel concerns.

45
46 Agenda item number 11 is time and place of next
47 meeting. Number 11.

48
49 Twelve is benediction.

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1 And the last item is adjournment. And interpreters are
2 Leo Moses and Chuck Hunt.

3
4 For those of you that it's going to be speak for items,
5 I would like to hear you introduce yourself and who you are
6 before you take your part as we get, so people will know who
7 you are.

8
9 All right. Now, maybe someone could introduce, like
10 who and who they are and maybe -- I would like to stand up, who
11 you are and your job and for those of you that are going to be
12 a speaker, we will appreciate it if you stand up and introduce
13 yourself. Uh-hum. Yeah.

14
15 MS. DOWNING: Meredith Downing with R & R Court
16 Reporters. I'm recording the meeting, and I would remind those
17 who do speak and those who come up to make reports to please
18 identify themselves and come up to the microphone.

19
20 MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm Pat McClenahan. I'm the staff
21 anthropologist with Fish & Wildlife Service in Anchorage.

22
23 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher, Fish & Wildlife Service,
24 Anchorage, wildlife biologist, Subsistence Office.

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Good morning, I'm Taylor Brelsford, and
27 I also work for the Federal Subsistence Board staff in the
28 Anchorage office of Fish & Wildlife Service.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

31
32 MR. BERG: Good morning. My name is Jerry Berg, and I
33 work for Fish & Wildlife Service in the Subsistence Office in
34 Anchorage as well.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Back there?

37
38 MR. REARDEN: And I'm Mike Rearden. I'm the refuge
39 manager for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

40
41 MR. KOVACH: I'm Steve Kovach, I'm a staff biologist at
42 the refuge.

43
44 MR. NICORI: John Nicori, Kwethluk IRA Council, natural
45 resource specialist.

46
47 MR. FOX: And I'm Frank Fox. I'm with the Native
48 Village of Kwinhagak, Natural Resources Director.

49

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1 MS. CRAIG: I'm Jean Craig from Hooper Bay.

2
3 MR. NANENG: Walter Naneng, Hooper Bay.

4
5 MR. NANUK: Richard Nanuk from Hooper Bay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alexis (ph), (In Yup'ik)

8
9 MR. HUNTER: Alex Hunter from Hooper Bay.

10
11 MR. EVAN: Wassillie Evan from Kwethluk IRA Council.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Titus?

14
15 MR. TOMAQANUK: Titus Tomaqanuk, Hooper Bay.

16
17 MAYOR SMITH: Niles Smith from Hooper Bay

18
19 INTERPRETER: Niles Smith is from Hooper Bay, and the
20 other one is Joseph Smart from Hooper Bay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

23
24 MR. SMART: Joseph Smart, Hooper Bay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

27
28 MR. JOHN: This is Paul John from Toksook Bay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

31
32 MR. HUNT: Chuck Hunt, (In Yup'ik).

33
34 MR. MOSES: Leo Moses from Chevak. I work for U. S.
35 Fish & Wildlife Service as a regional information subsistence
36 -- or refuge information technician.

37
38 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew, regional coordination (In
39 Yup'ik).

40
41 MR. GEORGE: Fritz George, Akiachak (In Yup'ik).

42
43 MR. MANUMIK: Paul Manumik, Sheldon's Point.

44
45 MR. NICOLAI: Ilarion Nicolai, Kwethluk.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Harry Wilde from Mountain Village.
48 But I was born here in Hooper Bay.

49

MR. McCANN: Billy McCann from Bethel.

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1 MR. CHARLES: James Charles, Tuntutuliak.

2
3 MR. DAVID: David O. David, Kwigilingok.

4
5 MR. THOMPSON: John Thompson, St. Mary's.

6
7 MR. L. WILDE: Lester Wilde, Mountain Village -- I
8 mean, from Hooper Bay.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

13
14 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

17
18 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik) I'd like to move for the
19 adoption of the agenda.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, yeah. (In Yup'ik)

22
23 MR. CHARLES: I second the motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David (In Yup'ik). He made a
26 motion to adopt the agenda, and seconded by Bill?

27
28 MR. McCANN: James.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James. Thanks. Any discussion?

31
32 MR. THOMPSON: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's been called for. All
35 who favor it, say aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign.

40
41 (No opposing votes.)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carry. (In Yup'ik)

44
45 MR. HUNT: Mr. Chairman?

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

48
49 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

2
3 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. What you.....

6
7 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

10
11 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

14
15 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah. Go ahead.

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Okay. Mr. Chairman. Looking back -- my
20 name is John Andrew, and I'm looking back at the minutes of
21 October 2, 1996, October 2 and 3 in that meeting held in
22 Akiachak. We'll just cover the highlights of the meeting
23 through the Yup'ik language. You'll have to excuse me, I have
24 the Kuskokwim dialect.

25
26 INTERPRETER: And also the people that have copies of
27 it, the minutes of the October 2 meeting in Akiachak, you can
28 go ahead and read the agenda items. John Andrew and Fritz
29 George are going to just go over the highlights of the meeting
30 at Akiachak.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional
33 Advisory Committee Public Meeting, Akiachak Bingo Hall, October
34 2, 1996, 2:00 p.m., Akiachak, Alaska.

35
36 The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harry Wilde
37 at 1:58 p.m. Invocation was done by the local village elder,
38 John Ekamerak. The elected secretary was not available, and
39 the Chair assigned member Fritz George to act as secretary in
40 his place. The Chair asked the acting secretary to do the roll
41 call. Members present: Harry Wilde, Steven White, Fritz
42 George, Zechariah C. Chaliak, Sr., Ilarion J. Nicolai, Antone
43 Anvil, Paul John, Lester Wilde. Member excused: David O.
44 David. Members absent: paul Manumik, Sr., and Gene Peltola.

45
46 OSM staff: Bill Knauer, Dave Fisher, Patricia
47 McClenahan, and John Andrew.

48
49 Other attendees: see sign-in sheet.

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1 Agenda: see Council book.

2

3 A very eloquent welcome address was delivered by
4 Jackson Lomack for the Akiachak Native Community.

5

6 The agenda was read There were some changes and
7 additions to the agenda. Carl Jack reporting for RURALCAP,
8 Inc. was put under item 3. James Luke for Kuigpagmuit, Inc,
9 was put at item 5. Randy Kaycon was to report under ADF&G, and
10 public testimony portion was moved to item 10, and Sky Starkey
11 was to do additional report for AVCP, Inc. the next day.
12 Steven White moved to accept the agenda with the current
13 changes, the motion was seconded by Antone Anvil. The agenda
14 was accepted by unanimous vote.

15

16 The minutes of the February 26, 27, 1996 were read in
17 Yup'ik language by Coordinator John Andrew. The motion was
18 made to adopt the minutes as read by Chuck Chaliak, and
19 seconded by Paul John. Motion passed with no opposition.

20

21 Election of officers. Coordinator Andrew opens floor
22 for the election of the chairman. Antone Anvil nominated Harry
23 Wilde. Seconded by Paul John. Antone Anvil requested to elect
24 the chairman by unanimous vote. Chairman Wilde took over and
25 opened floor for the vice chair. Paul John nominated Steven
26 White, seconded by Chuck Chaliak. Steven White nominated Friz
27 George, seconded by Antone Anvil. Close requested by Chaliak.
28 Vote count: Steven White 5 and Fritz George 3. Floor opened
29 for secretary. Chuck Chaliak nominated Friz George. Seconded
30 by Steven White, and asked to close nominations and asked to
31 vote him in by unanimous consent. Chuck Chaliak was voted in
32 for sergeant at arms position. Nominated by Steven White and
33 seconded by Antone Anvil.

34

35 Break five minutes.

36

37 Reports. USFWS/YDNWR, George Constantino and Mike
38 Rearden. Mr. George Constantino introduced himself and
39 expressed gratitude to the Council for doing a good job, and to
40 pay his respects. After a brief report on the YDNWR steel shot
41 program, he passed the baton to the local refuge manager, Mike
42 Rearden. Mr. Rearden went right into the seriousness of the
43 lead shot poisoning in the migratory birds in our region.
44 Serous declines in the spectacled eiders have been observed in
45 our region. The culprit is lead shot. They went on to show
46 the lead shot poisoning in ducks video. Steel shot will be
47 enforced in march of 1998.

48

49 Togiak NWR, Andy Aderman and John Dyasuk. Andy

50 Aderman, biologist for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge gave a

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1 report on the Public Use Management Program (PUMP) on the
2 Togiak River, Goodnews River, and the Kanektok River. Another
3 area he covered was their fisheries programs in their region.
4 The third area they covered were the outreach and educational
5 programs they have with students in their region involving
6 caribou, walrus, and moose. Jon Dyasuk was assisting and
7 interpreting for Mr. Aderman.

8
9 RURALCAP, Inc., Carl Jack. Mr. Carl Jack of Ruralcap,
10 Inc., introduced himself and thanked the Yukon-Kuskokwim
11 Subsistence Region Advisory Council for inviting to this
12 meeting. He explained to the group his work involving natural
13 resource issues where subsistence is concerned. He covered
14 some areas in the following issues: Native Marine Mammal
15 Commission, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Marine Mammal Protection
16 Act of 1972, which is renewed every five years. they have
17 received commitments from Mollie Beattie who was then the
18 Director of USFWS, and Ronald Smitten, Director of National
19 Marine Fisheries, to work on the umbrella agreement with the
20 tribes between USFWS, National Marine Fisheries, and the
21 recognized tribes of Alaska. Under the umbrella agreement, the
22 native groups will have more control over who gets funded and
23 for which species. Mr. Jack introduced Calvin Simeon as being
24 involved with the Indigenous Peoples Council, and urged people
25 with questions to confer with him.

26
27 Association of Council Presidents, Inc., Greg
28 Roczicka/Calvin Simeon. Mr. Greg Roczicka of AVCP, Inc.
29 started off by saying that he was going to touch on marine
30 mammals, but this was covered pretty well by Mr. Jack. He
31 pointed out that Mr. Calvin Simeon is the Co-chair of the
32 Indigenous Peoples Council. They have some fishery projects,
33 cooperative agreements with both the State and federal
34 agencies. They got the Aniak sonar, Lower Kuskokwim test
35 fishery, Kwethluk weir, and the Pilot Station sonar projects.
36 Under waterfowl project, they have the Waterfowl Conservation
37 Committee, and are involved in the steel shot program. The
38 other cooperative projects they have going at this time are
39 Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) caribou, Lower Kuskokwim Cooperative Plan,
40 and Lower Kuskokwim moose. Calvin Simeon explained why WCC
41 endorsed the steel shot program.

42
43 Kuipagmuit, Inc., James Luke. Kuipagmuit is the
44 consortium of three villages: Marshall, Andreafsky and Mt.
45 Village. Mr. Luke explained to the audience their efforts to
46 create their own Lower Yukon subsistence council within their
47 own region. They hoped to name their group of 14 villages and
48 the Wade Hampton Inter-Tribal Subsistence Council. They had
49 first started their efforts back in 1995 and tried to model it

50 after the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

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1 Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Randy Kaycon. Mr.
2 Randy Kaycon thanked the Council for the opportunity to a
3 presentation. He addressed the Council, old friends, new
4 members, and expressed appreciation to the representative of
5 the Akiachak IRA Council, Jackson Lomack, for his eloquent
6 welcome address. He reported that under the Western Alaska
7 Brown Bear Management Area program that subsistence hunters can
8 get a bear every year, they do not have to buy a \$25 fee, but
9 must possess a current license and a subsistence bear permit.
10 You must salvage edible meat for human consumption. Under the
11 State's sport hunting laws, you must have a current license,
12 are eligible to hunt a brown bear every four years, must
13 purchase a \$25 bear tag, must take the skull back to the ADF&G
14 and must have the hide sealed with the Department. They have
15 two moose management programs, Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim.
16 The other main comanagement project they have with the Service
17 and AVCP, Inc. villages is the caribou, mainly the Kilbuck.
18 Mr. Kaycon recognized the contributions of the USFWS/YDNWR for
19 gathering biological information on bear, moose and caribou.
20 The villages were recognized for their participation, and
21 contributions to the regulatory system, and to AVCP, Inc. N.R.
22 for being instrumental in securing fundings for the meetings.

23
24 Council matters, deferred proposals, Chairman Wilde.
25 Chairman gave a short report on council matters and deferred
26 proposals. He updated the group on Proposals #1, 22, 32, 36,
27 41, 45, 46, and 49. Also, on the Board actions on April 30,
28 1996 and on July 16, 1996.

29 Meeting recess. Meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m., to be
30 resumed at 8:00 a.m.

31
32 YKSRAC meeting, October 3, 1995, 8:20 a.m. Chairman
33 Harry Wilde called the meeting back to order at 8:20 a.m. with
34 the same members as the first day: 8 present, 1 excused, and 2
35 absent.

36
37 Rural requirement in charters. Coordinator Andrew
38 explained to the Council the rural requirement issue in the
39 charters. After much discussion in this area, member Fritz
40 George made a motion to keep rural in the charters, seconded by
41 Paul John, and it passed unanimously.

42
43 Council Actions on proposals. Proposal 45 and 46,
44 moose 21E. After the Chairman Wile and Antone Anvil's report
45 of the outcome of the meeting with Henry Deacon, Ray Collins,
46 Angela Demientieff, Harry Wilde, Antone Anvil in Aniak on July
47 25, 1996, the Council withdrew the above proposals. Member
48 Steven White made a motion to withdraw Proposals 45 and 46,
49 seconded by Lester Wilde. Vote: 8 yea's and 3 absent.

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1 Proposal 36. This proposal was tabled for the next
2 meeting since there were no representatives from Bristol Bay
3 or Togiak area to represent their Unit 17A.

4
5 Proposal 41. Western Interior Council deferred this
6 proposal. Antone Anvil moved to take no action, seconded by
7 Steven White. Vote: 8 yes with no opposition.

8
9 Deferred proposals. Patricia McClenahan gave a brief
10 update on the deferred proposals. Moose c&t for 21E is done,
11 and she is currently working on moose c&t for 17A and 17B for
12 the proposals made by the villages of Akiachak and Akiak.

13
14 Kwethluk Joint Group. Kwethluk Joint Group came up
15 with a caribou proposal for Unit 18, August 10/September 30
16 with the same dates and bag limits as the southern and eastern
17 neighboring units. Limit of five caribou. This Council moved
18 to support. Moved by Anvil and seconded by White with the
19 intention to accept amendments on the later date.

20
21 Frank Nicori pointed out the area natives waste
22 caribou, too. Especially when the Mulchatna caribou are
23 migrating through our area. Hunters using small caliber like
24 automatic 223s wound other animals without knowing it. Those
25 animals die later and are wasted. Kwethluk residents have
26 found and salvaged dead caribou carcasses the last few years.

27
28 Sky Starkey/AVCP, Inc. Sky Starkey, lawyer for AVCP,
29 Inc., pointed out that the rainbow/steel head trout regulations
30 are the same as the sport fishing regulations. Rainbow trout
31 should not be regulated since they are our people's subsistence
32 fish. Mr. Starkey tried to introduce a couple of rainbow trout
33 proposals, but the Chair informed him that we cannot act on
34 fishery proposals at this time. He urged the Council to
35 support comanagement on rainbow trout. The Council responded
36 by moving to support comanagement on rainbow trout. The
37 council responded by moving to support comanagement for rainbow
38 trout.

39
40 Caribou c&t 22A, Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay.
41 There was a discussion on caribou c&t recognition in 22A for
42 the villages of Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay. Paul John
43 made a motion to include those three villages, Chevak, Hooper
44 Bay, and Scammon Bay to have c&t recognition in 22A for
45 caribou. The motion was seconded by Antone Anvil. Vote: 8
46 ayes and none opposed.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Andrew? (In Yup'ik)

49

MR. ANDREW: Okay.

0015

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Harry Wilde has made a
2 statement that the State is against the c&t for 22A. And that
3 Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay are involved. And this
4 afternoon they will be discussing this issue.
5

6 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik) Paul John is just detailing what
7 Harry Wilde has said, that last year that they wanted to
8 include Hooper, Chevak, and Scammon to be able to be eligible
9 to hunt caribou in Game Management Unit 22A. And he said that
10 he was not in support of the idea not being included to hunt
11 for caribou in Game Management Unit 22A. And that he is urging
12 people to speak about how 22A was being used by people of
13 Hooper Bay for subsistence hunting of caribou when they make
14 their testimony.
15

16 MR. ANDREW: Implementation of federal subsistence
17 management, Bill Knauer. Mr. Bill Knauer updated the Council
18 and the group that the Board cannot deal with any fishery
19 issues at this time. Moving right into the Katie John
20 situation, the Federal Court has ruled that the term public
21 land does not include navigable waters. Informed the group
22 that the Service had ten regional hearings in the State of
23 Alaska. The Federal government is in the process of doing
24 environmental assessment regarding a fisheries management
25 program. Comments: The Chair reminded Mr. Knauer the
26 possibility of the Council using the advisory committee or
27 working with the advisory committees. The Yukon Drainage
28 Fishermen's Association might be useful as an advisory body.
29 There is very little buying of subsistence caught fish with
30 cash. There are some bartering and trading among native
31 communities with subsistence caught fish. There should be no
32 sale of salmon roe. There should be no subsistence fish
33 regulations, try not to set rules of regulations on subsistence
34 fisheries.
35

36 Public testimonies. A written public testimony of Joe
37 Chief, Sr. of Bethel was read by member Lester Wilde.
38

39 Phillip Guy of Kwethluk voiced concerns on the possible
40 harmful effects of the steel shot to our area's environment.
41 There are increasing numbers of unregulated and unmonitored
42 rafters, sport fishers, and sort hunters in the nearby
43 tributary rivers of the Kuskokwim. They are mainly concerned
44 with the Kiseralik, Kasigluk, and the Kwethluk Rivers. These
45 rivers are very important as a source of subsistence fish
46 producing rivers, and they provide our people with meat,
47 berries, wood and wild edible plants.
48

49 Noah Andrew of Tuluksak wanted to see comanagement

50 projects between the villages and the Service; leaving the

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1 State out. Roy Williams of Akiak agreed with Noah Andrew not
2 wanting to involve the state agency.

3
4 Location of the next meeting. Discussion on the
5 location of the next meeting. The next meeting will be in
6 Bethel on February 5 and 6, 1997, place to be announced.

7
8 Contributions to the meeting. Travel arrangements,
9 Office of Subsistence Management. Boat travel providers, YD
10 NWR, Kwethluk IRA, Akiak IRA, Ilarion Nicolai, Wassilie K.
11 Evan. Meeting room, Akiachak IRA Council. Translating
12 equipment, AVCP, Inc. Refreshments, Harry Wilde, Sr., and
13 Trapper John. Hosts, Native Village of Akiachak. Guest
14 housing, Akiachak Yupiit Nation School, Joseph Lomack, private
15 homes not named.

16
17 Benediction was given by the village elder Joshua
18 Phillip in Yup'ik.

19
20 Adjournment. The motion was made by Steven White to
21 adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Antone Anvil.
22 Vote: All ayes and no opposition. Motion carried. Meeting
23 adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

24
25 (In Yup'ik), Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana.

28
29 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chair?

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David?

32
33 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

36
37 INTERPRETER: There was just the mention the items
38 there that just needed to be changed. There's something about
39 the Yup'ik School District, but that's the only thing that
40 David O. David commented on.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any other changes or
43 amendments to the minutes of the Akiachak October 2, 1997
44 meeting?

45
46 MR. NICOLAI: (In Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: Under -- they wanted to change under the
49 Association of Village Council Presidents, they want to change

50 Kwethluk Weir to Kwethluk counting tower.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other changes or
2 comments on the minutes of October 2, 1997, Akiachak meeting.

3
4 MR. DAVID: Motion to accept with those changes. Made
5 by David O. David.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David. (In Yup'ik) Are
8 there any seconds?

9
10 MR. JOHN: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Paul John. (In Yup'ik)

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

17
18 (No opposing votes.)

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

21
22 INTERPRETER: The rereading -- adopts the minutes of
23 October 2 to 3 and February 5, and 6 has been adopted with the
24 amendments.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 2 minutes are passed. (In
27 Yup'ik)

28
29 MR. GEORGE: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. John Andrew (In
30 Yup'ik)

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

37
38 MR. GEORGE: February 5 and 6.

39
40 INTERPRETER: Let's see, that was October 2 and 3, 1996
41 meeting. And.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Translator, (In Yup'ik)

44
45 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) October 5 and 6.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik) I don't have a copy of the

50 minutes for October 5 and 6. Okay. I've got one right here.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: February 5 and 6, yeah. And for those
4 that -- does everybody have a copy of the October -- or
5 February 5 and 6 meeting?

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

10

11 INTERPRETER: Oh, the audience don't have it, or the
12 agency people don't have a copy? I'll be translating it into
13 Yup'ik.

14

15 Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
16 public meeting, Bethel Alaska. February 5 and 6.

17

18 Call to order. Meeting was called to order by Chairman
19 Harry Wilde, Sr.

20

21 Roll Call. roll call taken and members present: Harry
22 Wilde, Sr., David O. David, Paul Manumik, Sr., Ilarion J. Nic-
23 -- Is that Nicolai or Nicorai? Nicolai, yeah. Fritz George,
24 Steven White, Zechariah C. Chaliak, Sr., Antone K. Anvil, Paul
25 John, and Lester Wilde. Member absent: Gene R. Peltola, Sr.

26

27 Invocation. Invocation prayer was done by Paul John.

28

29 Review and adoption of agenda. Member Lester Wilde
30 moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by David O. David.
31 Motion passed.

32

33 Review and adoption of minutes. Minutes of October 2
34 and 3, 1996 were tabled for next meeting along with this
35 meeting. Copies of minutes to be sent to all members.

36

37 Public comment. The floor was opened for public
38 comments. Chairman Wilde requested to the listening audience
39 to fill out a testifier's form and informed them that this
40 process will be available throughout the meeting.

41

42 Old business. A. Update on implementation of federal
43 subsistence fisheries. The Katie John fisheries was moved to
44 the second day. Also, the memorandum of agreement issue was
45 put under new business to be presented by Sue Detwiler.

46

47 B. Inclusion of rural update. Rural issue was updated
48 by Regional Coordinator John W. Andrew. Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
49 7, 8, and 10 requested that the rural requirement be put in the

50 charters; Region 1 abstained; Region 6 said that it is not an

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1 issue; and Region 9 said they have no problem with the Board's
2 decision.

3

4 Regions 1, 2, 4, and 8 said that they did not need
5 alternates and that their attendance was good. Regions 3, 6,
6 and 7 recommended two alternates. Region 5 requested one for
7 each member, or two at-large members. Region 10 (North Slope)
8 had a discussion on this subject with no action taken.

9

10 C. Annual report. Further issues to be included: The
11 talking points on (1) whitefish, (2) king salmon, and (3)
12 Kuskokwim moose were presented by Regional Coordinator Andrew
13 as a package to be considered by the Regional Council. There
14 was no formal actions taken on this one. There was a rather
15 lengthy discussion on the above three discussion points by the
16 members of the Council and the public. At the close of the
17 discussion there was an informal agreement to table it for
18 their next fall meeting in October.

19

20 Discussion. Paul John on beavers creating dams which
21 shut off whitefish migration. In his observation, Paul John
22 said that whitefish go over dammed creeks at the time of high
23 water and as short as a couple of years the fish do not show
24 up. Those dams are also affecting the mink's denning areas.
25 Our forefathers shared the moose. One incident he remembers is
26 of sport hunters wasting meat. He asked the protection officer
27 why and he was informed the hunter had already bought the meat.

28

29 Billy McCann on whitefish. Billy McCann said that some
30 blame people and some tell him dams are destroying and
31 depleting the stock. Something needs to be done about the
32 beavers. He said that in our lifetime everything will not be
33 plentiful. On moose hunts below the McGrath area, there are
34 too many cows and hardly any bulls. Recommended a cow season
35 to cull out too many cows. Hunting only one gender can also be
36 harmful. He had a question on the trapping limit of beaver and
37 Chairman Wilde answered no limit.

38

39 Steven White said that if wasted, all will fade away.
40 Wolves will exterminate animals, too. Man should only get what
41 he and his family needs. One caught and brought home the
42 responsibility of distribution (sharing) and processing bull to
43 the wife or the caretaker of the home. No matter how many you
44 get, they will not diminish in numbers.

45

46 David O. David said that there are no broad head
47 whitefish in the Kwigillingnok area. He said that they need to
48 get whitefish from Akula (Tundra villages). He asked them to
49 tell it to the Department since he had heard they mange the

50 fish. He said that he has never killed moose in his whole

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1 lifetime. He also said that if they are going to have closed
2 seasons on people, they should have closed season on wolves,
3 too. Managers, he said, do not listen to them even though they
4 are brought up in the laws of our forefathers.

5
6 Paschal Afcan said that he does not like David O.
7 David's recommendations on beavers. Yup'iks/Cup'iks should
8 hunt beavers and eat them, too. Just like what we heard from
9 our forefathers, use what we can instead of wasting the animals
10 and always depend on the users of the species. Waterfowl are
11 being killed off by lead poisoning of the habitat. On the
12 beaver problem, we can take care of it ourselves.

13
14 Chuck Chaliak said that when he was a young man, his
15 people used to fence off the river or make willow weirs
16 blocking off the rivers for dipfishing, mainly for whitefish.
17 When the river water level is low, it is easier to catch fish.
18 When we have high waters, the high waters disperse the fish and
19 made them disappear. Whitefish started declining in the Akula
20 area in the 1950s. Man started bringing home nets from Bristol
21 Bay canneries. Nets frozen in rivers and lakes seem to be the
22 cause of declining whitefish in the tundra lakes. He is
23 concerned about Nunvarpak Lake and will work on this issue in
24 the near future. When he was younger, he used to go way far
25 off to trap beavers in the big hill near the Yukon River
26 border. Nowadays there are more and more beavers everywhere
27 you look. Our forefather's theory must be true, when the
28 beavers return, it will be the beginning of the disappearance
29 of all kinds of other food sources. On wolves, during the
30 Kwethluk meeting they informed them that the growing wolf
31 population is getting to be a serious problem. They are
32 killing off moose and caribou.

33
34 Paul John said that everything has an awareness. If
35 you continue to waste food (wild game), its creator will punish
36 our people. We never talk about the animals. Native legend
37 says that the same animal-spirit returns to the same hunter
38 every year because he/she is treated with respect. For
39 example, when a shaman was traveling underwater, he heard a
40 voice say, "Let's watch for the one that passed by. If he
41 does, let's step all over him, he does not treat our bodies
42 with respect." Marine mammals do not die spiritually when
43 killed, but the soul goes into the bladder. It can come back
44 again when the bladder is returned to the sea. Paul John
45 believed those stories and legends of our forefathers.

46
47 Lester Wilde said that whitefish populations are being
48 destroyed anywhere in the creeks and rivers where there are
49 beavers damming them. Moose moratorium works. Lower Yukon

50 areas, Azocharak and below, tried the Lower Yukon Moose five-

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1 year moratorium and it worked.

2

3 Paul Manumik commented on antlered animals. People
4 come in from the Lower 48 and foreign countries to do trophy
5 hunting in Alaska. He would like to see them transplant some
6 of those animals like they did on Muskoxen on Nunivak Island.
7 Leave the transplants 30 years or so, then establish a hunting
8 season, limits, guidelines and give them a chance to establish
9 their own herds.

10

11 Chairman Wilde said that they will do something about
12 those three items (whitefish, king salmon, and moose) on their
13 next meeting. Subsistence has the highest priority. He
14 expressed an over-all concern on the natural resources utilized
15 by our own people. Liked to see all species of fish from king
16 salmon down to the needlefish, big game, fur animals, plants,
17 waterfowl, and all other resources to be recognized as having
18 customary and traditional use determination by the Federal
19 Subsistence Board. He wants to have all the reusable resources
20 to be listed and presented before the Board for determination.

21

22 Chuck Chaliak recalled a time when fish sold for 25
23 cents a pound or four for a dollar. Money those days paid for
24 tea, coffee, sugar, and flour. He is in favor of selling some
25 subsistence-caught food for bartering or for customary trade.
26 He wants the children to continue that practice.

27

28 Billy McCann said that with the welfare reform, phasing
29 out or minimization of the food stamp program, more and more
30 people will start to go back to the subsistence way of life.
31 He has seen people purchasing food with very thick food stamps.
32 He appreciates the Council's effort in promoting subsistence.

33

34 Paul John said that he and David O. David went to
35 Washington, D.C. about a year ago. It took them a long time to
36 get there. Someone from far, far away should not regulate the
37 subsistence lifestyle. Not all animals eat other animals. The
38 majority of animals and birds eat plants. He gave examples of
39 ptarmigans, jackrabbits, caribou, and moose as plant eaters.
40 Subsistence is not understood by our counterparts. There has
41 not been one clear definition of subsistence. There is a need
42 for someone to define it to the point where it is agreeable to
43 all parties. Everyone has slightly different definition. He
44 told a parable of the different thickness of rope to a
45 Congressman. Weak language is like this rope with fewer strands
46 that break easily. Change the language to make into thicker
47 rope to make it stronger. Our forefathers had their own
48 unwritten laws of the land and it has not changed since the
49 beginning of time as we know it. When I asked, they could not

50 answer me.

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1 David O. David said that in some cases when they come
2 to him, they find out that the laws have been made or
3 established for certain species without the people's knowledge
4 in the past. those laws tell them how much they can catch or
5 harvest. Their ancestors used to tell them to harvest enough
6 to last through the winter and take advantage of what is
7 available. All he knows is how to live off the land and to
8 share it with his people. To those who have immigrated to
9 their land, what will they do if their pay was cut off? More
10 likely, they will be taken to court over it. Their forefathers
11 used their own laws. It is your law, you follow it. He said
12 that they have their own laws as mentioned before. Your pay is
13 letting you play with our way of life. You are trying to take
14 it away from our children, our descendants. Our creator made
15 us how we are. Christopher Columbus came to have religious
16 freedom, to say a prayer in peace. He did not come here to
17 regulate how we lived. He was found, he was truly lost.

18
19 Break for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

20
21 D. C&T Council concerns. Subsistence uses (Harry
22 Wilde, Sr.)

23
24 Return from lunch 1:00 p.m.

25
26 E. Reports. Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
27 Refuge trapping issue. Mike Rearden, Refuge Manager, presented
28 a brief summary of the refuge leghold trap ban issue. Trapping
29 study to be done by October 1997 and compiled by the regional
30 office staff. He pointed out the fact Kwethluk Joint Groups
31 have already responded to the trapping issue and informed the
32 listeners that a statement from an organization could be
33 helpful to let Congress know about the importance of trapping
34 to our people.

35
36 Mike Rearden passed out a graph showing emperor goose
37 population level for the last four years: 52,000, 57,000,
38 54,000, and 80,000. No record for the fall count. They are
39 still seeing a significant number being killed off despite the
40 YK Goose Management Plan.

41
42 Chuck Hunt presented the steel shot program the refuge
43 has been conducting for the UK Delta Region. The YDNWR has
44 conducted steel shot clinics in the following villages: St.
45 Marys, Mt. Village, Marshall, Quinhagak, Hooper Bay, Scammon
46 Bay, Kotlik, Nunapitchak, Pilot Station, Tuntutuliak, and
47 Kwethluk. They had a total of 183 class attendance, and a
48 total of 151 shooters. there was a trade off of questions and
49 answers on steel shot issues.

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1 Chuck Hunt. You can shoot cases and cases and cases
2 of steel shot without damaging your gun barrel. Properly
3 maintained guns will function properly. When we travel to the
4 villages, a lot of times we had to carry WD-40, you know, they
5 couldn't function. Honest, I've been out there. I know that
6 people don't make very much money, but I've seen people come to
7 Bethel with their dividend checks, and blow it away buying \$50
8 bottles from bootleggers.

9
10 Chairman Wilde, we are talking about steel shot, not
11 alcohol. I will ask for one more.

12
13 Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc. Greg
14 Roczicka from AVCP, Inc., Natural Resources Department, gave
15 his report. Introduced Tim Andrew, their new natural resource
16 trainee. He also explained the history of the 40-horse
17 restriction issue on the Hoholitna River.

18
19 Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Ida Alexie of
20 Division of Boards Support Section gave a brief report on her
21 regional advisory committee activities and upcoming meetings.
22 The Central Bering Sea Advisory Committee is to meet in
23 Goodnews Bay and the Lower Kuskokwim is to meet in Eek, Alaska.

24
25 Mike Coffing of State Subsistence Division gave a brief
26 report. First off he mentioned the State's loss of our area
27 biologist. The State is currently recruiting for that vacant
28 position. They do the annual salmon subsistence catch survey
29 every year on both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim villages. Data
30 will probably be available within another month. They are
31 currently working on cooperative agreement projects with AVCP,
32 Inc. on marine mammals.

33
34 Memorandum of agreement. Sue Detwiler introduced
35 herself as to who she is and what she does in her job. This
36 agenda item is informal. MOA is simply memorandum of agreement
37 between the Board and the Department that formalizes the
38 working relationship between the two agencies. With the
39 upcoming expanding jurisdiction of the federal subsistence
40 management, State again approached the Board wanting to develop
41 memorandum of agreement on some of the issues they wanted
42 addressed in the MOA. For the purpose of better coordination
43 or involvement between the regional advisory councils, advisory
44 committees, and both the State and Federal Boards.

45
46 Application/nomination process. Coordinator Andrew
47 defined the application/nomination process. Informed the
48 Council and the listening audience whose terms are up for this
49 year. Explained eligibility, terms, make up of Council

50 members. Had a short question and answer session. At this

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1 time, member Chaliak expressed concerns over the attendance
2 records of some of the members.

3
4 Staff concerns. There were no other concerns addressed
5 at this time.

6
7 Secretary George's Report. Council secretary Fritz
8 George gave a report on the joint Board and chairs, and the
9 Bristol Bay meeting he attended. Council member Steven White
10 moved to accept the report, seconded by Chuck Chaliak.
11 Discussion by Manumik. The process started over again and was
12 questioned and the vote was unanimous.

13
14 Others. Max Angellen wants to change the word rural to
15 Alaskan native.

16
17 Lester Wilde read a letter from Hooper Bay Traditional
18 Council inviting this council to meet in their village next
19 October.

20
21 Chairman Wilde acknowledged the Hooper Bay invitation.
22 At this time the Chairman informed the group that we will meet
23 tomorrow at 8:30 in the morning at the Cultural Center.

24
25 Recess at 3:30 p.m.

26
27 INTERPRETER HUNT: Would you like to translate for a
28 while? I'm running out of saliva.

29
30 INTERPRETER MOSES: Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory
31 Council reconvened in the Cultural Center at 8:37 a.m. Short
32 break at the request of the recorder. Restarted at 8:45 a.m.
33 The Chairman started the morning proceeding by recognizing
34 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

35
36 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Andy Aderman and Jon
37 Dyasuk. Very large numbers of caribou are within the Togiak
38 River drainage, all the way to Dillingham area. The
39 subsistence caribou season is open in that area with two animal
40 bag limit. Poor snow conditions have delayed and restricted
41 their winter moose count or survey. The TNWR did 70
42 presentations on various I and E programs within their region.
43 Area schools are involved in some of their projects. They also
44 informed the audience on the actions of the Bristol Bay Council
45 regarding Proposal 39 and 49. Regarding Proposal 39, they have
46 done some mapping with the residents of Quinhagak regarding
47 trails, areas used, and traditional trapping areas. they felt
48 that the subsistence activities will continue as before.

49

Council member Steven White pointed out that Quinhagak

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1 original concern was that they felt left out on federal hunts,
2 but they were allowed on fall state opened hunts.

3
4 Kwethluk Joint Group. The Chairman recognized Phillip
5 Guy of Kwethluk. Mr. Guy presented two resolutions from the
6 Kwethluk Joint Group: (1) 97-02-01 opposing the leghold trap
7 ban on national wildlife refuges, and (2) 97-02-02 pertaining
8 to wolf-moose calf predation. Both of these resolutions were
9 adopted, supported and passed by unanimous vote.

10
11 Motions on proposals. 45 & 49. Antone Anvil moved to
12 defer proposal. Seconded by David O. David. Roll call vote: 8
13 yes, 0 opposed and 3 absent. Motion passed. Justification:
14 Need original proposers present, and have resource users
15 consult with each other.

16
17 52. Steven White moved to adopt/pass Proposal 52 with
18 modification to accommodate the proposal made by Qavilnguut
19 Caribou Management Working Group to have a season to be
20 announced and the authority given to the refuge manager. Vote:
21 8-0-0-3, Justification. Intent is to go along with the
22 Qavilinguut Caribou Plan. Increase season and bag limit.

23
24 52, amendment to the main motion. Add refuge manager
25 announces season between August 15-March 31. Council
26 recommendation, support without modification. Vote: 8-0-0-3.

27
28 53. Steven White moved to support Proposal 53.
29 Seconded by David O. David. Discussion. Vote: 8-0-0-3.
30 Justification, to give c&t recognition to the affected
31 villages.

32
33 54. Lester Wilde moved to support Proposal 54,
34 seconded by Steven White. Discussion. Vote: 8-0-0-3.
35 Justification, To recognize the villages as customary and
36 traditional users of the resource.

37
38 Update on implementation of subsistence fisheries.
39 Regional office staff member Sue Detwiler presented the Katie
40 John fisheries update. Federal jurisdiction on navigable
41 waters. Need comments on proposed rule. Subpart C and D is
42 most important to us. Subpart C had to do with customary and
43 traditional uses recognition. Subpart D has to do with actual
44 subsistence laws.

45
46 At this time the Chairman thanked the translators, the
47 YDNWR TNWR, OSM, and the people that helped out. He also
48 expressed his appreciation to the local refuge, the community
49 college for providing meeting places. The public participants

50 were thanked and acknowledged. Public announcement was made on

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1 the upcoming Yukon River Drainage Association meeting in Mt.
2 Village.

3
4 Benediction. Antone Anvil gave the benediction prayer.

5
6 Adjournment. David O. David moved to adjourn the
7 meeting. Seconded by Steven White. Vote, all ayes in unison.
8 Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

9
10 (In Yup'ik) October? February 5 and 6, 1997, minutes
11 (In Yup'ik), Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

14
15 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think these minutes
16 should be deferred until later, table to the next meeting until
17 the regular minutes are written, because there's a lot of
18 discussion that was in there that are grouped together. This
19 is the highlights of the last meeting, not total minutes.
20 Where it states Proposal 54, the names of the village were
21 excluded. Also in 53. And all those affected where it says
22 affected villages. What affected villages are those? And
23 there's a couple -- there's a typo in there where Chuck shot
24 cases and cases and cased of steel shot. I think the approval
25 of these minutes of these minutes should be tabled until the
26 next meeting, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 MR. DAVID: I'll second the motion.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to table
31 the February 5 and 6 minutes, and second by David O. David.
32 Discussion?

33
34 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

37
38 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) Yeah, the idea is that not
39 just to go ahead and read all of the minutes for the next
40 meeting on the February 5 and 6 meeting, but just to read the
41 amendments or additions to the suggested changes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

44
45 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, there's two others. Under
46 Mike Rearden's report, it states in there that he passed out.
47 Most of the boards I'm on, they usually ask us to state hand
48 out, not passed out, because there's a misconception there.
49 When you pass you, you pass out from drinking.

0027

1 And the other correction I would like to address is the
2 40-horse regulation that's in the Kuskokwim River given by Greg
3 Roczicka from AVCP. It should say 40-horsepower outboard
4 motor, not 40-horse only. They would not understand what 40
5 horses. 40-horsepower outboard motors.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion?

8
9 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

12
13 MR. GEORGE: It should say 40-horsepower outboard
14 motor.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, we have a recording
17 secretary that takes the minutes of all the statements of all
18 the -- during the meeting, you know. We should wait for her
19 minutes to come out before we approve the minutes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that recommendation is a sound
22 recommendation, is next annual -- next meeting we should look
23 at corrections, not the whole minutes. Right now that -- Are
24 there any other discussions or additions or deletions to the
25 minutes that were read? That at the next meeting they're going
26 to review not the whole minutes, but those amendments or
27 additions or deletions that are made to those. Any more
28 discussion?

29
30 MR. CHARLES: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE:
37
38 (No opposing votes.)

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Ten minutes break (In
41 Yup'ik).

42
43 (Off record - 10:35 a.m.)

44
45 (On record - 10:50 a.m.)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The agenda item, this is going to be
48 on the election of the officers. First one is chairman, second
49 vice president and the secretary and then sergeant-at-arms.

50 The coordinator John Andrew, he's going to be presiding on

0028

1 that.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first thing
4 is chairman. As soon as the chairman is elected, the chairman
5 will take over. That's the way these elect. He'll just start
6 the meeting. The term for the chairman is one year. And he'll
7 be chairing all meetings. Presently Harry Wilde is the
8 chairman. And handles all the proceedings in the meetings.
9 And the chairman also attends all the meetings of the Board
10 meetings and signs all documents, takes care of minutes, and
11 anything else that needs to be taken care of. The Council has
12 a quorum, and they'll be elect the chairman of the council.

13

14 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, I nominate David O. David
15 for chairman.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 MR. CHARLES: David O. David.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

22

23 MR. McCANN: I second the motion. Second the motion.

24

25 INTERPRETER: James Charles nominate David O. David.

26

27 MR. ANDREW: Are there any other nominations?

28

29 MR. JOHN: I nominate Harry Wilde.

30

31 INTERPRETER: Paul John nominates Harry Wilde.

32

33 MR. MANUMIK: Second.

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Paul Manumik second. Are there any other
36 nominations?

37

38 MR. JOHN: Paul John wants to close the nominates.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

43

44 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

45

46 INTERPRETER: He is giving out the small slips and they
47 will vote for either Harry Wilde or David O. David.

48

49 MR. ANDREW: And Fritz George will be counting the

50 ballots.

0029

1 (Pause - voting and counting ballots.)

2

3 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, David O. David three votes,
4 Harry Wilde seven votes. Harry Wilde remains.

5

6 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Thank you for electing me
9 chairman. I will try to, as I always have, try to work it out,
10 even though sometimes I have difficulty understanding the
11 English language.

12

13 Right now we are opening the floor for nominations for
14 vice chairman.

15

16 MR. L. WILDE: Paul Guy. I mean Paul John, I'm sorry.
17 I'd like to nominate Paul John.

18

19 MR. DAVID: Second the motion.

20

21 INTERPRETER: Paul John is being nominated by Lester
22 Wilde. Second by David O. David.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

25

26 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other nominations?

29

30 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask for
31 unanimous consent for Mr. Paul.

32

33 MR. DAVID: I will second the motion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 MR. THOMPSON: Question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) All in favor, say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed?

44

45 (No opposing votes.)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries.

48

49 INTERPRETER: Paul John is the vice president.

0030

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next is secretary.

2
3 MR. NICOLAI: (In Yup'ik) Fritz George. (In Yup'ik)
4 unanimous consent.

5
6 INTERPRETER: Ilarion Nicolai asked that Fritz George
7 continue to be the secretary by unanimous vote.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

10
11 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

12
13 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik) unanimous consent.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Seconded by John
16 Thompson.

17
18 MR. NICOLAI: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question is called. All who favor
21 say aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no?

26
27 (No opposing votes.)

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fritz George by unanimous decision is
30 the secretary. Sergeant of arms.

31
32 MR. L. WILDE: Paul Manumik.

33
34 MR. MANUMIK: Lester Wilde.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. THOMPSON: I nominate Paul Manumik.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

41
42 MR. L. WILDE: I second it and ask for unanimous
43 consent.

44
45 MR. MANUMIK: I oppose.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 INTERPRETER: Paul Manumik has been nominate and wanted

50 to vote by unanimous support the nomination of Paul Manumik.

0031

1 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, I call the question.

2

3 MR. MANUMIK: I opposed the unanimous consent. I was
4 going to ask for.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, okay. (In Yup'ik) He opposed
7 the unanimous consent.

8

9 MR. MANUMIK: I would like to nominate Mr. Wilde, too.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion for unanimous decision has
14 been removed, and Paul Manumik has made a nominate as Lester
15 Wilde for sergeant at arms. Wanted to vote by secret ballot.
16 (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: Now they are going to vote for either
19 Mr. Wilde or Paul Manumik for sergeant at arms.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

22

23 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) seconded?

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

26

27 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

34

35 (Pause - voting and counting ballots)

36

37 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, Paul Manumik six votes,
38 Lester Wilde four. Paul Manumik got sergeant at arms now.

39

40 MR. MANUMIK: Well, I'll try not to be lade like this
41 morning.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

44

45 (Applause)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) It has been five years
48 since they have started. The Council's been working -- in
49 those five years have been working for important things on

50 subsistence. The Board, most of the Board are non-natives, and

0032

1 the chairman is a native person. And the chairman -- and all
2 of this villages -- or the chairmen from the villages have
3 always been working together.

4
5 At the present time the floor is open, and it will be
6 open throughout the whole meeting for anybody to testify toward
7 the management of subsistence resources. And at the present
8 time that person can speak again throughout the whole meeting,
9 but they need to fill out these pink sheets of paper. And if
10 you don't know how to fill that form out, all you've got to do
11 is give us your name, and you'll be able to provide testimony.
12 At the present we would like to hear to the federal subsistence
13 program and how it works.

14
15 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

18
19 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah. Okay. (In Yup'ik) Go
22 ahead, Billy.

23
24 MR. McCANN: Yeah, I run for this board, this is the
25 first time I'm in this board here by the Secretary of Interior.
26 The first time he's sitting on this advisory board. But my
27 thinking is today is the first time I'm with these people. I
28 do the best I can to listen to everybody wherever I've got the
29 meeting. I'm -- sometimes I've got big mouth to talk to
30 somebody, so I do the best I can to help the people in the
31 area. As much as he understands, he appreciates the fact that
32 he's privileged to be a member of the advisory committee. So
33 he will serve to the best of his ability to satisfy everybody.

34
35 MR. THOMPSON: Harry?

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

38
39 MR. THOMPSON: Johnny Thompson, he feels the same way
40 as Billy McCann and so he appreciates that he has an
41 opportunity to be sitting with the Federal Subsistence Advisory
42 Council. Like Billy McCann, he'll do the best he can while
43 he's in service. He feels that the subsistence way of life as
44 he has lived it is important, as in this life. Quyana.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Charles.

47
48 MR. CHARLES: James Charles feels the same way as he's
49 a -- the first time that's he's served. He appreciates the

50 fact that he's a member now. Like the other two, he will try

0033

1 to do the best he can to serve the purpose. He says that under
2 the federal guidance towards subsistence is an important thing.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Three new members, give them a hand.

5
6 (Applause)

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Back to the agenda. Get down to old
9 business.

10
11 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman?

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

14
15 MR. MANUMIK: Before you go on, (In Yup'ik). Paul
16 Manumik is advising the chair before he goes on down the line,
17 he should give the audience a chance to say their case towards.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For those of you that are in
20 attendance, if you want to comment or testified towards the
21 federal subsistence, so if you have any comments. Aaron?

22
23 MR. RIVERS: Yeah. He's saying that.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

26
27 MR. RIVERS: My name is Aaron Rivers, I'm living here
28 in Hooper Bay. My home town. He was just getting ready to go
29 out subsistence hunt, but when they had subsistence here during
30 Walter Hickle days, he had gone to Anchorage to participate
31 towards subsistence. At that meeting, there was a saying that
32 the subsistence issue would be the same as ever, and the
33 statements that were made there were to be used as a tool to
34 defer (ph) the natives, the continuance of subsistence way of
35 life. At that meeting -- he at that meeting had posed as one
36 -- with one voice that their subsistence way of life would
37 continue. And anyone opposed, that agency or anybody opposes
38 subsistence way of life would then be the one to address. So
39 he perceives the fact that he had an opportunity to see it a
40 little before he leaves, because his airplane is on the way
41 over, so he's running away in the way of saving himself the
42 trouble of saying any more. So he's encouraging the rest of
43 the natives here to do their case as much as they, as smart as
44 they know, or as well as they know when they do testimony.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana, Aaron. Guy Mann has now got
47 the floor. He's an elder from Hooper Bay. Guy Mann is one of
48 the elders of Hooper Bay.

49

MR. MANN: He also appreciates the fact that he's able

0034

1 to attend this meeting. It has always been his desire to
2 attend any and all their -- any and all their meetings when
3 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service meets, but this is his opportunity
4 to be with them. At this time his life is not like as he used
5 to be in his younger days. And the say of subsistence hunting
6 has also changed.

7
8 A long time ago any and all resources were available to
9 the people, and the game weren't scarce and plenty. But since
10 the management has started on all games, on all the fish, it
11 seems that the resource have diminished, and he feels that
12 whenever the resources are managed, or an effort is made to
13 manage them, the effect on them is greater than expected.
14 Closures and openings and all the confusion that's incurred in
15 management system. When God put resources on earth, he made
16 sure when they need food that there was plenty of resources
17 available for the people of this land. But on that day and
18 age, since the management has started, at times some people
19 hungers, because the food source are unavailable in certain
20 times of the year, and some fish are scarce in the rivers as
21 well. And he feels that Fish & Game and Fish & Wildlife
22 Service, it seems that ever since they started the managing
23 efforts, it seems that the effect of their work is causing
24 somewhat harm to the residents of the region, because when the
25 resources were put on earth, and He made sure that there would
26 be plenty. But as he sees the change, all the animals
27 resources, he's known from time to time and time again from the
28 ages that some animals reproduce a lot more than some other
29 years, and sometimes early (ph).

30
31 He has heard from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that the
32 Fish & Wildlife Service hear of the depletion of the resources,
33 and thereby set in the closure. But he assures that for those
34 people who have made those statements, that the resources of
35 the land will not completely diminish or deplete. Haven't they
36 thought of who make all the resource in this land, but the
37 people who were put on earth are the ones that are affecting
38 the resources. But he knows that the resources are strong
39 enough and abundant enough to support the hunger for all the
40 region's people.

41
42 So please don't play as yes and yes people. Oppose
43 some of the proposals that are presented to you at times,
44 because it has sometimes the proposals have bad effects for the
45 regional people. So oppose some of the proposals that are
46 presented to you, understanding that you are doing the right
47 thing. So think of us when you have to deal with some
48 proposals that are presented to you. So he's saying it from
49 his own experience and knowledge that the guidance is needed.

50 So don't follow those that are setting the rules and

0035

1 regulations all the time. Make and oppose statements,
2 opposition statements to better some of the proposals that are
3 about to become laws and regulations.

4
5 So I have always wanted to share some of my thoughts
6 with some of the meetings that I've heard in the past. He has
7 known for as long as he has lived that the resources on --
8 that's in this region would be abundant enough to support the
9 people. He knows that God will ensure the abundance of the
10 resource for the people.

11
12 And some cases he knows from what he heard from the
13 young people, a lot of nesting areas that the wildlife nest,
14 they used to nest, are no longer coming to the area. Where
15 have they gone? There used to be plenty a long time ago. So
16 some of the waterfowl that used to come to this region are no
17 longer around.

18
19 He appreciates that he's given an opportunity to make a
20 statement. So I ask for you again, make oppo- -- make some
21 opposition statements to some of the proposals that are
22 presented to you.

23
24 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman?

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

27
28 MR. JOHN: Paul John would like to -- Paul John, he
29 himself has had feelings like Guy Mann. He would like to say a
30 few words in support of the statements made by Guy Mann. He
31 feels also that the management scheme that the Fish & Wildlife
32 Service is applying towards the waterfowl just like Guy Mann
33 has stated. The Creator will make sure that the resources are
34 plenty enough, and our ancestral people have made those
35 statements like that long before the missionaries came around
36 to the region. And at this time, since the management has
37 started, both state and federal, that how the management is
38 going is for money. Mostly it seems that sports groups are
39 more favored to do their work, because those that manage are
40 more interested in the subsistence users because of the money
41 that they have to apply onto their permit. He knows for a fact
42 himself that the Maker of the land will ensure the abundance of
43 the resources and assures the people that it will be adequate
44 and abundance.

45
46 He knows that the resources when they are not being
47 used do diminish at times. And at this time land otters, or
48 muskrats, when we stopped harvesting the muskrat, they're
49 completely now gone, because he knows that the spirit who make

50 them have caused the depletion of those species, because they

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1 are not being harvested. A long time ago when they were being
2 utilized for subsistence and for a little money, the following
3 year would be that much more, so the way of the subsistence is
4 just like that. So he knows that God provides. And also
5 looking at white fox, red fox, mink. All of those animals,
6 because the interest has somewhat lost in time. It seems that
7 they're starting to disappear. They're not as plentiful as
8 they used to be, because they're not being harvested.

9
10 All the food resources from the land, regardless of how
11 much we take from the land, will not be short. It is true that
12 whoever made the -- the God who made the land and the people
13 and resources will ensure the abundance.

14
15 The State and Federal and their management is
16 interfering with the resource. So in the future, because of
17 the management schemes, it will be harder and harder to
18 handle. But the resources will never deplete even if people
19 are saying that they are being depleted.

20
21 We are not called big cities or just small villages, so
22 if the adults of the region make comments to direct the
23 management people, if they don't listen to us, it will be
24 getting harder and harder for us. But if we work together,
25 have one mind, we will have -- they have a chance to proceed
26 and progress to a better way. But the opposition, so much
27 opposition forces have caused to make things harder, but for
28 those of them that will work with the agencies, if they have
29 one mind and one direction, they will do a lot better and a lot
30 more smoothly for the people to accept the conditions that are
31 established for them.

32
33 The Secretary of Interior, he -- these people are
34 recognized, and they are recognized as well in Alaska. But
35 when they have gone out to the -- he knows the people, that he
36 have a chance to sit on this board, so they have a little power
37 to direct the agencies who are managing or handling the laws
38 and regulations, and wh -- those of us that are living on the
39 Fish & Wildlife Service land all the way from the mouth of the
40 Kuskokwim to the mouth of the Yukon River and beyond, all the
41 purple or pink color on the map, that they look at it. All
42 these refuge lands that are managed in the future, if we work
43 together, they will be -- they will all be appreciative in the
44 end if they work together. So -- because government has --
45 because government statements are also conflict with what he
46 always feel he had. He wanted to add.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He would like to break for lunch at
49 this time and be back here at 1:00 o'clock.

0037

1 MR. NANUCK: Mr. Chairman. Richard Nanuck. (In
2 Yup'ik) My name is Richard Nanuck, I live in Hooper Bay since
3 I was born. Richard Nanuck, he has lived here all his life.
4 He hasn't gone anywhere. The only thing that -- time he goes
5 out of the community is when he goes out to do a little work so
6 he can make a little money, and now that he's done, he comes
7 back home to live.

8
9 A long time ago when he was growing up, there wasn't
10 that much food. People buy for them. But their parents and
11 grandparents have provided them from the land. It's just like
12 all that effort of providing was supplied to everybody. Men
13 and women, young and old. At this time, if the people live --
14 if anybody don't subsistence hunt ever, he knows that their
15 health will not be as good.

16
17 So the people who are sitting here before you, that
18 they will be assured to be listened to if they have to make
19 their statements on some issues regarding the control of the
20 resources. So we have an opportunity now to be heard. Those
21 people who have -- who are knowledgeable are not here
22 represented, like Scammon Bay people are not here, Chevak
23 people are not here. So he feels that they are missing out on
24 this missing meeting. So he's encouraging the rest of these
25 members to support the opening of all the subsistence resources
26 both from the land, navigable waters and the oceans.

27
28 So we know the people who manage waterfowl, when they
29 start handling waterfowl, it's like giving them -- it's like
30 giving them a sliver, like a human gets a sliver from the wood,
31 because the sliver area will -- the sliver area will be
32 infected, so wildlife, waterfowl and animals, they do have
33 feeling like human people. And they are for the people to eat,
34 like marine mammals.

35
36 A long time ago they used to hunt by kayak, and back in
37 the Indian country as well they have canoes not kayaks, but
38 they also provided for their people. And now the moose,
39 beaver, bear, and those of use on the coast from the marine
40 mammals like walrus and sometimes -- sometimes he finds some
41 walrus -- dead walruses that are beached on the shore would be
42 utilized as well. They didn't say that they were stunk, they
43 were used.

44
45 So if you have to go anywhere to further your
46 statements, perhaps to Secretary of Interior, make sure and let
47 them know that we have life, is the true meaning of
48 subsistence.

49

So those who travel outside, they do have to eat. They

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1 have plenty to eat, but these do -- the natives here, their
2 only way of gathering plenty for themselves is by going out to
3 hunt from the land. The blackfish are caught, needlefish,
4 tomcods. From season to season, they hunt. Even the ice gets
5 thickest about there or four feet, they will then chip away to
6 make a hole to fish under. That our way of using, methods of
7 subsistence, we pass it down to our younger generation to even
8 know how to survive, how to jig for fish from under the eyes,
9 teach it, but if all that is stopped, they go hungry.

10
11 So those of you on the advisory board should have a
12 power to participate in decision makings of handling the
13 regulations and laws, both state and federal. Don't be shy.
14 Don't be shy. Make your case with them and just like the
15 management group for around here, he come here, they're not
16 scared to face the situation. Be like them, so the resource
17 will never be depleted, but once they are being handled, that's
18 the time when they start declining.

19
20 A lot of people have noticed that some of the geese
21 that have bands, because they're -- the side, the foot that had
22 a band has been found to be dry and useless, so if a human
23 being has a band and his hand gets useless, how would they
24 feel. So U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service are just the same,
25 people just like us. If they go hungry, they'll kill a ghost
26 (ph) and eat. And some of the people that are workers, a lot
27 of them are -- their ancestors are Indians, and they subsist on
28 the land from them, but they do come here and work for us, so I
29 hope they appreciate the public's comments that they themselves
30 do have feelings just like the rest of the management people.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) When we open at 1:00
33 o'clock there will be testimonies or comments from the public.

34
35 (Off record - 11:35 a.m.)

36
37 (On record - 1:05 p.m.)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) We can now resume. When
40 we went off for lunch, we were on public comment on federal
41 subsistence management program. So it's apparent for the
42 people that came this afternoon to introduce themselves. At
43 this time that the floor is still open to comment on federal
44 subsistence program, and this opportunity will be continued
45 during the meeting. We urge that you fill out testifier's form
46 if possible.

47
48 At this time, I would like to ask State Fish & Game
49 people to -- we want to welcome to our meeting first, and then

50 we want to know who they are and their duties and

0039

1 responsibilities.

2

3 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Y-K Regional
4 Council and the new members on the Council, my name is Michael
5 Coffing. I'm with Fish & Game, Subsistence Division. I work
6 in the Bethel office. The area that I cover is primarily from
7 Kotlik, down around the coast, on around to Platinum, and up
8 river just about as far as McGrath on the Kuskokwim, and over
9 to about just below Holy Cross on the Yukon River. I'm glad I
10 got to meet all of you. Thanks for allowing me to come.

11

12 MR. KRONE: Thank you, Harry. I'm Tom Krone. I'm the
13 Arctic and Kuskokwim regional supervisor for commercial
14 fisheries and for the (Indiscernible, away from microphone)
15 division.

16

17 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I'm Dan Bergstrom with
18 the Commercial Fisheries Management and Development with Fish &
19 Game, and area biologist for the Yukon River chinook and summer
20 chum salmon and also Cape Romanzof herring.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone that I forgot from State?
23 Okay. We thank you to our meeting. And also we have our radio
24 station. We would like to introduce the radio station. (In
25 Yup'ik)

26

27 MR. TULUK: (In Yup'ik) KUCK.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 MR. TULUK: Peter Tuluk with KUCK in Chevak, and Alexi
32 Isak (ph) is KYUK Bethel.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Glad to have you.
35 To continue with the meeting, the floor is still open for
36 public comment on federal subsistence management program. If
37 there's none,.....

38

39 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

42

43 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik)

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 MR. DAVID: David O. David. He has been sitting on
48 this group for quite some time, and how he's going to continue
49 to sit in with them for some time to come. So our way of life

50 as native people of the coast where we are, a person -- for

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1 continuance of subsistence way of life. And all the rules and
2 regulations that are probably before them and as they begin to
3 understand the rules and regulations of the management system,
4 so -- and as a native, he would like to see eventual management
5 to be shared with our counterparts to manage our resources,
6 subsistence way of life. So as we know that people from
7 outside come with the rules and regulations that are
8 established against our people, they have to be shared with us
9 after they have been into law, after they have been enacted
10 into law. So that way the natives never had an opportunity to
11 share the beginning of those rules and regulations that are
12 established.

13
14 He himself doesn't go out subsistence hunting, but his
15 grandchildren are the ones that are providing for the families
16 as their ancestral people have done to assist those people that
17 are becoming elderly. So he has never shared any subsistence
18 way of hunting and fishing, but I guess the effort of trying to
19 protect the way of life may have caused them to go far and wide
20 to protect the issues.

21
22 So we all know as people of the region, so we all know
23 that we can share the management system. Sometimes we have
24 visitors that they come from as far away as down Lower 48 to
25 enforce and establish and work their rules and regulations. We
26 as native people, we are no longer children. We don't need to
27 be guided and patted on the back to do this and that, and we
28 are supposed to subsistence hunt.

29
30 Like John Paul has stated this morning, that when the
31 renewable resources are not harvested, they naturally die off.
32 So some people when those resources diminish some to the point
33 of attention, we are the ones to be blamed for the decline.
34 Tolerances (ph) for the people who were able to guide and use
35 their methods, we will survive like they have directed us.

36
37 Sometimes you as native people don't have the time to
38 go out hunting themselves because your jobs retain you at home
39 so you could survive as well in the dollarwise, but your
40 grandchildren and children will do the work as your ancestral
41 people have relied upon their young to provide for the
42 community. Quyana.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Quyana.

45
46 MR. McCANN: May I say something, too?

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Go ahead. We're going to
49 continue, maybe we be closing the floor for a while and get

50 into our agenda. Go ahead.

0041

1 MR. McCANN: Thank you. Billy McCann, (In Yup'ik),
2 Bethel. What he would like to add on a little bit from himself
3 regarding Fish & Wildlife and Fish & Game. They don't
4 completely understand the methods and use of subsistence way of
5 life. Sometimes one of them had got up to him and told him
6 that, in one of the meetings outside in D.C., and how much he
7 utilized in subsistence use, because the only reason why they
8 ask is because for the fact that they don't know the meaning of
9 subsistence. So he feels that he -- the Federal Board has --
10 he probably would have a stronger voice, because they are
11 directed by the federal and guided works in the manner. If
12 they say -- if these select a group of people as advisory
13 board, and if the rules and regulations are to come about from
14 the Washington, D.C. or elsewhere, or before anything like that
15 is established, those boards, those established boards or group
16 would be approached first before enacting the law. So the law
17 should never be established or regulations be established and
18 enacted before any native groups have been consulted. So the
19 selected group of people would be knowledgeable people who know
20 about subsistence way of life. So only that way I think it
21 would be best to establish that group and then use them acting
22 as a doorway into approaching before any rules and regulations
23 are established or enacted into law.

24
25 He's not in opposition to Fish & Game or Fish &
26 Wildlife Service, but to work together with them. But the laws
27 and rules and regulations that need to be established should be
28 taken before -- from the group selected.

29
30 (In Yup'ik) if you understood me.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Qu yana. One more. (In
33 Yup'ik). Go ahead, Frank.

34
35 MR. FOX: Frank Fox from Quinhagak IRA. He's always in
36 support of a subsistence way of life, so he's got -- he's now
37 gotten into the director. He would like to say a few words
38 regarding the subsistence management system from the federal
39 subsistence. He would like to see a working relationship in
40 the subsistence issues, and through the advisory council, and
41 this group has to meet twice annually. He would like to have
42 the group here to establish meetings to have four times yearly,
43 if there's any monies can be found. And then if you're going
44 to be working closely with the agencies and IRAs and
45 traditional councils, need to be approved relating to what this
46 thing proposed for. So the reports of this nature, the
47 testimonies that the public has input do share with the groups
48 of this nature, but when they go their regulatory boards,
49 somehow our messages, our requests and desires are somewhat

50 lost along the line. So it seems like that when you go, you've

0042

1 got the whole body behind you. So we would like our message to
2 be heard in the other meetings in the regulatory boards, so
3 after the meetings like that, a lot of the requests from the
4 native groups have never been brought up. Where do they go?

5
6 Our elders at this time, they're getting scarce, and
7 their voices are somewhat diminishing or declining. And he has
8 heard over and over again on customary and traditional use, and
9 they themselves including Hooper, Kwigillingok, has they opened
10 -- opened their eyes to the subsistence is wide -- was wide
11 spread. They go by dogsled at the time and get passed
12 Kisaralik. And they are told that if they have no customary
13 and traditional use history, they not be allowed to hunt in
14 that area. And we have been cited for doing our thing. And
15 then the other villages would also be informed regarding that,
16 be sure that meet.....

17
18 He would like to see federal subsistence program -- he
19 would like to have them recognize us a little bit more clear
20 and closer in what we do. Quyana.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. (In Yup'ik) So, so
23 much for this topic. We'll go to old business. Update on
24 implementation of federal subsistence fisheries. Taylor,
25 you're here? Where he is? Tab D. (In Yup'ik) Taylor?

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, you're ready
28 to proceed with the.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD:fisheries? I apologize for the
33 slight delay. We will be on the air with KYUK from Bethel out
34 to all of the villages just momentarily.

35
36 Let me say that the text on the federal fisheries
37 management is found in your packets at tab D as in David. Tab
38 D. And there were some additional copies available for the
39 public if you want to read it. I will be using some visual
40 aids so it will be a little bit easier to follow.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before you start, (In Yup'ik). He
43 says supplies (ph) (indiscernible) for those of you that are
44 lacking English, there is some little radios available.
45 Quyana. Go ahead.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you again. Our topic this
48 afternoon is the status of the federal subsistence fisheries
49 management. This is what most people hear about called the

50 Katie John case. I would like to talk about four different

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1 things with you this afternoon. First of all, to kind of bring
2 everybody up to date on the past year, what happened in the
3 last year. Secondly the Federal Subsistence Board has prepared
4 some draft regulations, like a first draft. This is called a
5 proposed rule, so I'll tell a little bit of what's i there.
6 Thirdly, I think the Regional Council might have some questions
7 about your work with federal subsistence fisheries, and I want
8 to address a few ideas there. And, finally, we'll talk about
9 what the next steps would be from now until completion.

10
11 The Ninth Circuit Court, the federal Court of Appeals,
12 made a decision in the Katie John case in November of 1995.
13 This case came from the Ahtna region in the Copper River Basin.
14 Katie John is an elder who wanted to go subsistence fishing at
15 her tradition place, Vaxalanetes (ph). And her lawyers said
16 that the federal subsistence protection should cover her
17 fishing place, Vaxalanetes.

18
19 The legal issue was one called navigable waters, and
20 the question of where the federal subsistence program applies
21 in waters, in navigable waters. Okay? From 1990 up to 1995,
22 the federal subsistence only applied on land with wildlife,
23 animals. But the court in November 1995 in the Katie John case
24 said the federal subsistence program should apply on some
25 waters, some navigable waters, fresh waters in the streams.

26
27 Normally, the Federal Government would go right ahead
28 and implement a court decision, but this time the Congress said
29 stop, no implementation of the court decision, no spending, no
30 funding to implement the Katie John decision. This is called a
31 moratorium, And that moratorium lasted until yesterday, until
32 September 30th of 1997. So it's like a tug of war between the
33 court that says go ahead, and the Congress that says, stop,
34 stand still.

35
36 While the moratorium was going, we had to make some
37 planning steps just in case on October 1st, on today, we were
38 supposed to go ahead with new federal subsistence. So I will
39 talk next about some planning steps on the proposed rule and
40 the environmental assessment.

41
42 There are some very recent developments in Washington
43 just yesterday. Senator Stevens introduced legislation in the
44 Appropriations Committee. Two things. The first one is called
45 a continuing resolution. It lasts for until October 23rd,
46 about three weeks, and it freezes everything, stay at status
47 quo, don't change for three more weeks, through October 23rd.

48
49 Senator Stevens also introduced legislation for

50 amendments to ANILCA and these amendments are virtually the

0044

1 same as the Governor's Task Force recommendations. Many of you
2 went to the AFN/AITC summit on subsistence in August, and maybe
3 you're familiar with the Governor's Task Force recommendations,
4 and with the AFN resolutions.

5
6 Senator Steven's action yesterday is consistent, it's
7 the same as the Governor's Task Force. It will have hearings
8 and requires a vote of the whole Senate before it would go into
9 effect, but on today the Federal Government is not moving into
10 new subsistence fishing management. We are still on hold,
11 because of the continuing resolution through October 23rd.
12 Okay.

13
14 So finally -- okay.

15
16 MR. McCANN: Can I ask you a point.....

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure. Yeah. That's.....

19
20 MR. McCANN:what this involve?

21
22 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.

23
24 MR. McCANN: You mean that subsistence are according to
25 the Governor -- the same say the fact before?

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. There's no change.....

28
29 MR. McCANN: No changes.

30
31 MR. BRELSFORD:today, no changes through October
32 23rd. The Federal Government, the Federal Subsistence Board is
33 still on hold for fishing. All of the wildlife regulations
34 that you guys have worked with over the years, there's no
35 change. All of that is still good, active regulations, good
36 subsistence regulations on federal lands. But October 1st is
37 no change on fisheries. Up to October 23rd, there would be no
38 more -- no change on federal subsistence fisheries.

39
40 MR. McCANN: Thank you.

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay? I mentioned that some planning
43 work was going on in the past year, and a lot of that focused
44 on what kind of regulations, federal subsistence fishing
45 regulations would be good. The Regional Council looked at some
46 of these last year in February in your Bethel meeting, so some
47 of this will be familiar to the Regional Council. I'm going to
48 talk about five parts of that regulation, just as a general
49 overview.

0045

1 The first part of those regulations talks about which
2 waters, which rivers would come under federal subsistence
3 management, under federal subsistence jurisdiction. Basically
4 it's important to remember that these are inland waters, not
5 the coast and marine waters. It's not ocean waters, it's
6 freshwater river systems.

7
8 And the second thing is that the federal subsistence
9 regulations would apply on waters where they go through a
10 federal conservation unit like the Yukon-Kuskokwim National
11 Wildlife Refuge. So on this map, the refuge lands are outlined
12 in pink, and the rivers, the freshwater rivers inside of the
13 refuge are in little red markings. So if you want to look for
14 the detail later on, please look at the map closely. It shows
15 that all of the freshwater streams inside the refuge, Togiak
16 Refuge, Yukon Delta Refuge, those would come under federal
17 subsistence fishing when the Federal Government goes ahead on
18 this, when the legal problems are resolved and the Federal
19 Government goes ahead.

20
21 The second change says that federal subsistence
22 regulations would apply on lands that were selected by the
23 ANCSA corporations, but they haven't yet been conveyed. Some
24 lands are in interim status, they have not yet gone over to the
25 corporations, and under this regulation, those would now be
26 part of the federal subsistence management program. If you
27 remember, some people know that along the Kuskokwim River and
28 along the Yukon, there is a lot of native corporation selected
29 land. And the federal wildlife management regs don't apply on
30 those selected lands right now, but this regulation would
31 change that so that selected lands would come under the federal
32 subsistence priority.

33
34 The third important aspect of the proposed rule is --
35 it's called extraterritoriality, or extraterritorial
36 jurisdiction. There is existing law that allows the Secretary
37 of Interior to reach off of federal lands to regulate some
38 activities, fishing or trapping or hunting, if those activities
39 are causing a failure of subsistence use on the federal lands.
40 So to protect subsistence on federal lands or federal waters,
41 the Secretary of Interior can actually limit activities,
42 hunting, harvesting, on other lands, on state lands or private
43 lands if there's a failure, if it's making a breakdown in
44 subsistence harvest on the federal lands. That is called
45 extraterritorial jurisdiction.

46
47 And this is a very special exercise of federal power.
48 It's very rare. All of the states have objected very strongly
49 to this kind of power by the Secretary of Interior, so under

50 these regulations, only the Secretary of Interior could

0046

1 exercise that power. It would not be delegated down to the
2 Federal Subsistence Board and the regional councils. Only the
3 Secretary would exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction.

4
5 Two more things on the rules. Customary trade is a
6 very important part of the subsistence way of life in rural
7 Alaska, particularly with fish. I know when I lived in Aniak,
8 I used to see people making dry fish and exchanging it with
9 their friends for a little bit of money. We would call that
10 customary trade. The federal subsistence regulations, these
11 proposed or draft regulations, would provide for customary
12 trade so long as it is not a significant commercial enterprise.
13 You can't go out and send thousands and thousands of dollars of
14 dry fish away and call it customary trade. That's too much.
15 That's a significant commercial enterprise. But as long as
16 it's a small traditional amount in the village, between
17 neighboring villages, that would be customary trade.

18
19 Please, Johnny?

20
21 MR. THOMPSON: When is it too much?

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: There was a lot of discussion by
24 different regional councils when we talked with the regional
25 councils last year in the winter, some councils said -- no,
26 some staff, federal staff, suggested a dollar amount, that
27 there should be a dollar, a cap on the dollar value of
28 customary trade. Some suggestions were \$3,000, \$5,000, \$7,000
29 maximum, like that. But the regional councils felt that it
30 could be a different amount in each region, that a significant
31 commercial level in Southeast Alaska might be different than a
32 significant commercial amount in Norton Sound. So the
33 regulations have no dollar amount, no single dollar amount, and
34 the regions, like different regional councils could suggest a
35 dollar amount that is appropriate in your region. It could
36 still be worked out on a region-by-region basis.

37
38 MR. THOMPSON: And the reason why I ask this question
39 is in our customary use, we don't go by amount.

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

42
43 MR. THOMPSON: We go by as needed,.....

44
45 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-hum.

46
47 MR. THOMPSON:to exchange to one another. That's
48 a territorial way of living them days. There is very few
49 people that was in territorial customary use in this room,

50 right at the present time, very few. And the ones that are

0047

1 that speak up is the one that actually used the customary use.
2 I am one of them. We had no vehicles, nothing. So in that --
3 it kind of pressured me when you mentioned dollar signs.

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. I think the main thing is that
6 customary trade is a long-standing part of the subsistence way
7 of life. The councils have said that, the Federal Board
8 understand that. There are a very few special cases where
9 somebody went too far, tried to sell fish in Seattle and said,
10 no, that's subsistence under ANILCA, you can't touch it. It
11 was too far.

12
13 What we're trying to do in these regulations is to
14 leave some room for regional solutions, for the regional
15 councils to help us write regulations in each region to be sure
16 that the traditional activities are protected, and at the same
17 time make sure nobody takes advantage or abuses customary trade
18 to have a big business. So that's kind of what's behind the
19 approach here. This will require more work from the councils,
20 more help from the councils down the road to try and really get
21 it right, get some details into it.

22
23 Fritz, did you have a question?

24
25 MR. GEORGE: Yes, I do. Is it sort of mean like my
26 people can trade for a new motor, a snow machine or a boat from
27 the store using our dry fish? And when I -- when you mention
28 something about putting a dollar value on our subsistence
29 resources, then what would be wrong with that? There should be
30 a possibility for a person without any funding, but will have a
31 lot of fish, then he will be able to buy it, or trade.

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: You're asking an example that I've
34 never heard talked about. Take your fish down to AC Marina and
35 come back with a motor. I never heard of it. Most of the
36 discussion, Fritz, has been about people that are -- they have
37 their buddy put up some dog salmon, some fish for dogs, and
38 they send them a little bit of money for that. That's the most
39 -- that's the common example. I'm not aware of any examples
40 like you're describing, and I don't know how the courts, how it
41 would work to be making large purchases at a commercial store
42 based on trading in some subsistence caught fish.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Frank, go ahead. Frank?

45
46 MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman, What they were -- this is
47 customary and traditional use when they had a meeting in
48 Dillingham. The method of trading. He himself, the man that's
49 standing in front of you, does not really know how the

50 customary use is, and the trading for -- he don't go up to

0048

1 \$7,000. He has stated that one. Who are those people that are
2 coming to rural communities. Who have traded so much money for
3 those? Meaning natives, whites, colored people, we are not
4 walking through money. And our food have not been given away
5 for money. Sometimes we share, like if he doesn't have any
6 seal oil, if he has an abundance of king salmon, dried salmon,
7 he would in turn trade his salmon for seal oil. But the people
8 who would want to trade their subsistence caught food for
9 dollars, as much as \$7,000, who in those -- whose direction is
10 that? Why do they give it to us now? The customary trade, if
11 they don't know, I think it would be wiser if federal
12 subsistence should be changed for us to traditional --
13 establish a board and a group to handle that portion.

14
15 MR. McCANN: Let me tell you this, a long time ago,
16 maybe over 40 years ago, yeah, we used to use trading, because
17 we didn't have any money. Some little stores in the villages
18 used to buy dry fish to get flour or sugar, stuff like that.
19 But nowadays, nobody does that any more. That's why maybe some
20 of you people think. We use that subsistence use for trading
21 something, but it doesn't -- there's no more. It's a long time
22 ago we used to use it all right, because we don't have no
23 money. Just like we want a little quarter, something to offer
24 at the church, we'd sell them to the store to get some little
25 money to offer to the church. And those little stores, they
26 sell them to somewhere else, like orphanage, -- the hopanak
27 (ph) to orphanage to sell them there. That was our money.
28 There was no work whatsoever, just a few. That's what that
29 trading come from maybe, but you people doesn't know what it
30 is. You're thinking about like \$7,000. No, it's not that.
31 It's a little bit amount traded with sugar or flour, because we
32 don't have no other way to get the flour, but that's what it
33 is.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

36
37 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me say that the -- what gave rise
38 to all of this discussion, Frank, was some court cases in the
39 Southeast and Seattle area where fish caught under subsistence
40 opportunities were sold, and the dollar amounts were quite
41 significant. And the lawyers argued that this was just another
42 form of customary trade. That's why all the worry.

43
44 I think what we've tried to do here is not make it
45 worse, to recognize that customary trade is in many parts of
46 the State still today active, and to leave some room for the
47 regional councils to help us make more specific regulations for
48 your region. Some regions say \$7,000 is not enough, that they
49 want customary trade bigger than that. I think the comments

50 here suggest that that's too much in their eyes.

0049

1 MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 MR. FOX: The way of trading and barter among the
6 native people, that's a way of life. It's our way of life.
7 These people should not come from the outside and establish
8 that kind of ruling. That's our way of life.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He's encouraging for the speaker to
11 finish his speech before anybody else speaks.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: Shall we go on? The last part of the
14 proposed or draft regulations I want to mention is the basic
15 harvest rules for seasons and bag limits and methods. Most of
16 those subsistence seasons and harvest limits, bag limits, are
17 taken from state subsistence fishing regulations for the first
18 year. Maybe some of you remember in 1990 when the Federal
19 Government got involved in subsistence wildlife management,
20 they used the state regulations as a baseline, first year
21 baseline, and then the next year the councils started to make
22 proposals for changes and improvements and refinements.

23
24 It would be the same thing with fishing. In the first
25 year, they would use the state subsistence fishing rules as a
26 baseline, and then every year from there the villages, the
27 public, the Council, could help refine or improve those
28 regulations, make adjustments to make them better.

29
30 There was two reasons to go that way. One is because
31 people are pretty familiar with the fishing seasons and the
32 rules for subsistence fishing now, and we didn't want to just
33 kind of overnight make some big change that would be confusing
34 to everybody.

35
36 And the other reason is that in fisheries there are
37 lots of different user groups. A lot of people count on the
38 commercial seasons, a lot of people count on the sort guiding
39 industry and so on. The idea here was to go a little bit slow,
40 not throw everything up in the air all at once in the first
41 year. So the actual harvest regulations would look pretty
42 similar to what you've had in the last few years under state
43 subsistence fishing.

44
45 In a few small areas the Federal Board has already made
46 some changes, like rod and reel used to be not authorized, not
47 allowed for subsistence fishing, but in the federal rules it is
48 allowed. And another example of a change would be at
49 Vaxalanetes where Katie John fishes. Because of the court

50 ruling, they now allow a subsistence fishing season at

0050

1 Vaxalanetes for the Ahtna people.

2

3 So most of the regulations would look just like what
4 you're familiar with from state subsistence, but a few changes
5 come from either Federal Board action or court action so far.
6 The main thing is that in the second year, in the next year,
7 there could be proposals for changes and regional council
8 recommendations for changes just the same as we do with
9 wildlife. Okay?

10

11 MR. CHARLES: Are you done?

12

13 MR. BRELSFORD: One last part to talk about. Actually
14 two. Why don't we stop and take questions now, and then we'll
15 talk about regional councils. James, did you have a question?

16

17 MR. CHARLES: Won't I be allowed to fish inside the
18 refuge in all the streams and rivers inside the refuge
19 subsistence fishing in all the rivers and the streams if this
20 passes and how about subsistence fish for tom cods like our
21 lunch today out in the coast? Would I be allowed to fish for
22 them, too?

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Of course. Of course you can.

25

26 MR. BRELSFORD: The change here is from state
27 subsistence fishing regulations in those waters inside the
28 refuge to federal subsistence regulations. So generally
29 speaking, the current state fishing regs, the state subsistence
30 regs would continue under the Federal Board and with the
31 regional councils' involvement. Okay. So I don't if there's
32 kind of a trick to your question.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: I want to know where the boundary starts
35 from state and federal.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: The external boundary of the refuge and
38 fresh waters, so the marine systems, once you get beyond the
39 mouth of the river, and I don't know technically the definition
40 of the latoral (ph) coast and the freshwater mouths, but where
41 that is, that would be the difference. It's navigable waters
42 inside the boundary of the refuge, not the three-mile limit
43 marine waters around the outside -- around the coast.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 MR. R. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Roy Williams, from Akiak Native
48 Community, Natural Resources. Are you talking about if there
49 is an occasion when there is a change from the state to federal

50 subsistence?

0051

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

2

3 MR. R. WILLIAMS: Okay. To my understanding, anything
4 that may be connected to the public lands within the state, in
5 any of those rivers that may be going out from those public
6 lands within the state, and whether it's nonnavigable or
7 navigable waters within the State of Alaska would be under
8 federal subsistence regulations. Is that how I comprehend you
9 say?

10

11 MR. BRELSFORD: No. That was actually a position
12 offered by AFN some time ago that the whole water systems, the
13 whole Yukon drainage, the whole Kuskokwim River, should come
14 under federal jurisdiction under the Katie John decision. That
15 is not the rules being proposed here. It's the fresh waters,
16 the navigable waters only where they are inside of a federal
17 conservation unit like a refuge or a park or the national
18 forest. So I think it's extremely important to realize that
19 the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers go through different land status
20 from the mouth to the headwaters. Up above Kalskag on the
21 Kuskokwim River, these waters are not in a federal conservation
22 unit, and they are not going to come under federal
23 jurisdiction. It's only the navigable waters inside of a
24 federal conservation unit.

25

26 Okay. So I think what you were thinking of was the AFN
27 interpretation, and the request, but the regulations that I'm
28 talking about only go inside of the conservation units, these
29 little streams outlined in red.

30

31 MR. R. WILLIAMS: But whether it's nonnavigable or
32 navigable waters within those federal, what do you call it,
33 Fish & Wildlife.....

34

35 MR. BRELSFORD: Conservation units.

36

37 MR. R. WILLIAMS: Conservation units.

38

39 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. Actually the nonnavigable
40 waters, the high stream beds or small lakes that are not
41 connected by navigable water, nonnavigable waters already come
42 under the federal subsistence program. The court case, and
43 these regulations, would add the navigable portions of those
44 river systems. But again, the key thing not to misunderstand
45 is it's only inside of the federal conservation units where
46 those fresh waters are changed, or proposed Katie John
47 regulations.

48

49 I think there might be some other general questions, so

50 maybe let me quickly finish with the key items here, and then

0052

1 we'll come back. For the regional councils, it's very clear
2 that taking on federal subsistence fisheries management would
3 increase your work. You would be addressing regulations and
4 technical papers and stock assessments, run return estimates
5 for fish like you now do for wildlife, so you would have more
6 work. We understood from the regional councils that you wanted
7 to have one council working with both fisheries and wildlife,
8 not to split it up in a fish council and a wildlife council.
9 One council doing the whole work, because the subsistence way
10 of life is like one fabric. It's not split up either.

11
12 So what we were thinking is it would be a matter of
13 making the meeting in the falltime longer, and the meeting in
14 the wintertime longer. Two and a half days instead of one and
15 a half days. Something like that. That's the current
16 approach.

17
18 Secondly, the fisheries cycle, regulations cycle would
19 be offset one step, so wildlife regulations go into effect in
20 June, that's the new season, the new year. Fisheries
21 regulations would go into effect in March or April, because
22 that's like the new year. So in the fall meeting, you guys
23 could start proposals on wildlife, looking ahead to next June,
24 but you would be already one step up on fisheries. You would
25 be looking at technical papers, making final recommendations on
26 fisheries. The Board would make final decisions on fish in
27 December, and then they would meet in April to make their final
28 decisions on wildlife regulations.

29
30 So you could meet on the same schedule, fall meeting,
31 winter meeting, and you would do different business on fish and
32 wildlife each time. The two systems would just be one step
33 apart.

34
35 The final point was that again the baseline year would
36 be existing regulations from state subsistence fishing regs,
37 and after that, starting in late 1998, we would have the whole
38 proposal and review cycle. That's when new changes could be
39 suggested.

40
41 I want to finish by saying what happens from here to
42 the end. And so this says next steps if the moratorium is
43 lifted. Let me take a little second and emphasize that the
44 Governor's Task Force, these proposed amendments from Senator
45 Stevens, and the moratorium in place, they're trying to fix the
46 subsistence problem without the Federal Government getting any
47 more active in fisheries management. So there's a lot of
48 political effort right now to resolve state and federal
49 subsistence fisheries, not to spread them further apart. None

50 of us can predict what will happen in Congress, or if there's a

0053

1 constitutional vote, what would come from it. So all of this
2 discussion about new federal stuff might just go away if the
3 State moves towards resolution and back to unifying a single
4 subsistence fishing sys- -- a single subsistence management
5 system. So keep that in mind. The federal program will only
6 go ahead if the moratorium is lifted, if these efforts to
7 resolve the subsistence dilemma break down.

8
9 I think you've probably heard before, Secretary Babbitt
10 supports reunification of subsistence management under State
11 jurisdiction. That's the policy. And there's lots of
12 political argument out there.

13
14 But if the moratorium is lifted, what we have to do is
15 the public steps of making federal rules. So the planing
16 steps, the in-house technical work is done, but the next part
17 is to involve the public in general. So the proposed rules,
18 those draft regulations have to be published in the Federal
19 Register. There would be public meetings, including regional
20 council meetings, to have hearings and to make specific
21 comments on the rules. Then the final rule would be published
22 and the new regulations would go into effect. At the earliest,
23 that would be something in spring of 1998. If the moratorium
24 extends, if the politics keep going, it could be much later
25 than.

26
27 So the main thing is as of October 1, everything sits
28 still until October 23rd. No change right now. We all have to
29 watch and see what the Legis- -- what the Congress does with
30 this legislation proposed from Senator Stevens, and with the
31 State Task Force work. If all of that breaks down and the
32 Federal Government goes ahead under the court order, then what
33 you would see is publication of rules, public hearings, and a
34 final rule. Well, it takes a lot of steps before you're going
35 to see new federal subsistence fishing regulations.

36
37 So, Mr. Chairman, I think that's kind of the overview,
38 and now if there were other questions, maybe it would be
39 helpful to entertain them.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. David O. David.

42
43 MR. DAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have comment as
44 well as questions. There may be more than one question or --
45 but I do have some comments to make, too.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

48
49 MR. DAVID: My first question will be when did United

50 States of America, when did the United States make agreement

0054

1 with these people, indigenous people, to tell them how to live
2 their life and do their subsistence? When? What year? What
3 month?

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, Mr. David, I think you and I both
6 know that the federal legislation that you operate under and
7 the Federal Board operates under is ANILCA, the Alaska National
8 Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980. There are
9 philosophical disputes about the legitimacy of the land claims
10 settlement or the territorial purchase, all of that further
11 back in history. And I'm not sure I can answer you with
12 helpful response.

13
14 MR. DAVID: Yeah. Cut me off in ten minutes, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16
17 The reason I ask that question is these people were
18 here first, and I was here first before your ancestor was here.
19 And like I have stated it before, Columbus was -- came here to
20 have freedom of worship, not to tell the people that are there
21 how to live their life, and how to do their subsistence.

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-hum.

24
25 MR. DAVID: And you have presented what federal people
26 have proposed and what state people have proposed, and you
27 forgot these people. Why? You forgot them, because they
28 didn't give you any money. And you're talking for them,
29 different people, than these, because you're getting money from
30 them. And if I use my language, would you -- (In Yup'ik) What
31 did I say?

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 MR. DAVID: That tells you that I am a different people
36 and can live my life with instruction of my elders.

37
38 I told you to cut me off in ten minutes, but I think
39 I'll save the rest for just maybe tomorrow.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was going to tell you to sit down.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me correct this thing before you
48 guys start talking. We are right now on our agenda Katie John
49 rule. That is agenda, that agenda is -- that's the way it's

50 supposed to be, and question and discussion. Now we'll open to

0055

1 let -- George?

2

3 MR. GEORGE: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. Taylor, what's
4 going to happen to commercial fisheries on the Yukon and
5 Kuskokwim Rivers after the federal take over?

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: If there's a federal take over, the
8 approach of the subsistence priority is to ensure that adequate
9 subsistence harvest come first. That's the principle under
10 ANILCA. To implement that principle, these regulations would
11 start slow. They would retain the same seasons and bag limits
12 that are currently in place, and based on requests from
13 councils and the public, we would make changes in those
14 regulations. So there may be adjustments in other uses,
15 commercial fishing, sport guide fishing, other kinds of fishing
16 to ensure the subsistence opportunity. But what I would kind
17 of say is it would be in small steps, not sweeping
18 transformations or bumping an industry out of existence.

19

20 I think a lot of testimony has come to the Board saying
21 that the same guys who subsistence fish, or the same people who
22 subsistence fish for their families, also commercial fish. And
23 we need to be a little careful about making changes that are
24 beneficial and don't have a negative impact, an unnecessary
25 negative impact. So I think if you guys are thinking about
26 examples where subsistence fishing is not enough, you can
27 propose changes. If the Federal Board comes into this, you
28 could make proposals for changes, and the Board would under
29 ANILCA have to make sure that subsistence fishing comes first.
30 But again, I think everybody realizes we want to go cautiously
31 with this.

32

33 MR. GEORGE: Is it sort of something like is the
34 Federal Subsistence Board going to make sure that my tribes in
35 the Y-K Delta is going to have enough fish stored for the
36 winter before they open Area M for fishing?

37

38 MR. BRELSFORD: I knew this was going to come. It's a
39 very complicated management system, because the fish pass
40 through a long migration path, and the nonsubsistence uses get
41 that return first. So what the federal managers or the state
42 subsistence managers now have to try and do is regulate
43 commercial fishing so that enough fish make it upstream for the
44 return for spawning, and for the subsistence uses in the
45 terminal fisheries, in the freshwater fisheries. That same
46 problem of the ecology or natural history of fish is going to
47 confront you all on the councils and the Federal Subsistence
48 Board.

49

If there are breakdowns in seasons, people on the Y-K

0056

1 find that the fish return is not adequate, you can't go back to
2 the month of -- in July let's say you find that the fish runs
3 are not coming in strong enough for subsistence. The month of
4 May, month of June already went by. You can't turn the clock
5 back, so in some cases the changes are going to have to be for
6 the following year, the adjustments are going to be offset by a
7 year. That's if the estimates, the run predictions, if all
8 those things don't work, the recourse is going to be a more
9 conservative commercial allocation the following year. That's
10 just the nature of the timing in it, Fritz. I think you follow
11 me.

12
13 MR. GEORGE: Uh-hum. One more thing, Mr. Chairman.
14 It's really good to hear that also the sport fishermen are
15 going to be regulated to make sure that everybody's got enough
16 fish in their store for the winter before they go up there and
17 open sports fisheries, right?

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: You're familiar with the priority, the
20 subsistence priority in ANILCA. And what you're saying is
21 consistent with that priority.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

24
25 MS. LEE: Debbie Lee, ONC, Bethel. I guess what I'm
26 hearing, you know, the Kuskokwim region, they had different
27 districts in commercial than the one in the Bethel area, which
28 is mainly federal lands. And if the feds did take over, then
29 they would manage those W-1. But in W-2, which is the upper
30 part of the Kuskokwim region is state management. You would
31 have state and feds. You would have the federal managing the
32 lower district, while the state is managing the upper part of
33 the Kuskokwim?

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, partly part, but let's be sure,
36 Debbie, we're okay on the fact that the State would continue to
37 manage commercial fisheries. The Federal Government's
38 responsibilities would be limited to the subsistence fisheries,
39 so Comm Fish, the licensing, the -- all of that would remain in
40 place. That's the state jurisdiction, no matter what, down
41 river, up river, way up off shore, or within the three-mile
42 limit, all of that for commercial fisheries remains a state
43 jurisdiction, no change.

44
45 For subsistence fishing, what you described is like
46 divided management, so federal -- the Federal Subsistence Board
47 would manage subsistence fishing in the lower portion of the
48 Kuskokwim-Yukon, the part inside of the refuge, the Yukon
49 Delta.....

0057

1 MS. LEE: Uh-hum.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD:National Wildlife Refuge, and
4 upstream in the central Kuskokwim or the middle Yukon range --
5 middle Yukon districts, that would be managed -- subsistence
6 fishing and commercial fishing and all of the fisheries
7 allocations, those would be managed by the State.

8

9 On the Yukon River, you could go in and out of state
10 and federal jurisdictions several times between the mouth,
11 between Emmonak and Fort Yukon. It's divided management, so it
12 depends on the land status which subsistence regulation would
13 apply. It's like the wildlife regulations right now. You have
14 to be worried about whether you're on the state or federal
15 land.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) John Thompson.

18

19 MR. THOMPSON: Like this morning he had already thought
20 up an idea as to use as an example. At this time, at this day
21 and age, this is the way we live. This is an example. You see
22 this tube coming down, and another tube or a pipeline going
23 down river, or downward to the lagoon. And look at the middle
24 of those pipe. Because the toiletry is not -- it doesn't
25 belong to the white person, it doesn't go out the other way.
26 And suppose we take the white man and put them in there and put
27 us outside. At this time the subsistence way of life's just
28 like that, just like it wasn't like long, long time ago.

29

30 You have heard Paul John make statements to that
31 effect. That's the way we lived. We're not going to -- I'm
32 not going to cover that area, because it's already been said.
33 I would like for our counterparts to understand. We can't
34 hear. The directions set aside from all this work, but the
35 verbal communications. There is an S or a quotation mark, that
36 that's the work you do, wordings. If you have no paperwork to
37 guide you, you can't do it. But for those of us, our way of
38 life is unwritten, and it cannot change. So without that, we
39 can't have a meeting, because our language don't have that
40 kind. So like to -- we will subsistence hunt as much as we
41 can, and our chair, we ask you that direction, too.

42

43 One time we will tell you about how the fish is, and
44 how the fish is, but you won't completely understand, but if
45 you understand it now, we are sorry for closing you down on
46 subsistence. What we understood and knew it from way back in
47 history, that much is that much.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Questions? (In Yup'ik)

50 Go ahead, Billy?

0058

1 MR. McCANN: I want to ask you about the -- you said
2 something about the sports fishing. That the sport fishing and
3 floating, they -- now these people are using the -- their just
4 like sport fishing, making a hole in the ice for fishing, like
5 on the -- in Bethel, down by the seawall, they're fishing with
6 a hook, get the frost (ph) fish, lost fish. Is that in coding
7 in sport fishing or -- that shouldn't be coded as subsistence
8 in -- that's more like ice fishing, it's not like white people
9 to me, caught them and let them go. No, it's not that way. If
10 that's been closed, then.....

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: The point I was trying to make is that
13 in the original regulations in the federal subsistence
14 management, rod and reel, rod, not just jigging, but with a
15 rod, that was not considered a subsistence gear type. That's a
16 hold-over from state rules before. The Federal Board changed
17 that and said that in the federal program, rod and reel is
18 considered a subsistence gear type. I think that's separate
19 from the jigging, which was always recognized as a traditional
20 method.

21
22 But, Mr. Chairman, I don't know how much longer you
23 want to pursue this discussion. It's really intended as
24 primarily informational. There's a lot of late-breaking news
25 out there. We've all got to watch the TV tonight to see what
26 happened in Congress. So we might not want to speculate too
27 far out on what's going to happen. This was just to be sure
28 people were basically away of the preparations that have gone
29 on so far, and to really emphasize that before any final
30 action, there's a lot more public involvement, and a lot more
31 regional council involvement.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) After Frank Fox
34 we'll go on to another topic on the agenda. Go ahead, Frank.

35
36 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No matter who seems
37 to take over what subsistence activity's going on. D.C. right
38 now, we're still going to go out and hunt and fish, no matter
39 how many times we land in jail. No matter how many times they
40 citation us, we're going to go out and fish, and I'm --
41 regardless of who takes care of -- who assumes to take -- will
42 take over subsistence management. Nobody's going to take --
43 we're going to hunt. They can lock us in, and as soon as we
44 come out, we're going to go hunting again, no matter who
45 manages the fish and game. We should not worry about our
46 future. If something's subsistence take over is by the Federal
47 Government, we're not -- we shouldn't worry about whether to go
48 hungry or not.

49

50 INTERPRETER: That's pretty strong.

0059

1 MR. FOX: That if enforcement people come around, then
2 be harmed, but they -- but -- and he hopes for the future that
3 these people does not come from the outside and how to tell
4 these natives how to subsistence hunt. He has been told from
5 the childhood how to survive and subsist. He knows what he was
6 told, he know how he was guided. Our methods and ways, if you
7 establish them and put them on paper, black and white, we're
8 going to start establishing our rules and regulations on black
9 and white, and present them to the federal or state.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We've gone this far on this certain
12 topic, so he wants to continue on to another topic, but if you
13 have any questions, go set them aside and ask them questions.
14 We're going to go to our next item on our agenda. These are
15 only reports. I'm going to ask Andrew, our coordinator, to go
16 ahead and take this item B, annual report, 1996.

17
18 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, quyana.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

21
22 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) First two items, broadhead
23 whitefish and king salmon, there's nothing we can do about it.
24 We'll just lay it out as a report.

25
26 INTERPRETER: Report that John Andrew is going to make
27 under agenda item number 9.B.

28
29 MR. ANDREW: I'll just go ahead and read it in Yup'ik,
30 'cause there's copies of them -- there were some copies of them
31 over on that table covering these three talking points.

32
33 INTERPRETER: If you don't understand in English, it
34 says here that broad whitefish decline was up first up in -- as
35 a regional issue at the fall of October 1994 by the Regional
36 Advisory Council meeting in Bethel. This addressed the
37 Nunvarpak Lake drainage and the Johnson River. And in the Eek
38 Portage River is another river drainage with numerous lakes
39 that has seen serous declines in the broadhead whitefish
40 populations. Kialeek River is another river that has serious
41 declines. Whitefish Lake has seen severe decimation of its
42 akakeek population. Gweek River is another river that has seen
43 serious declines. Kuskokwim River as a whole has seen
44 decreasing numbers of broadhead whitefish. There are other
45 small tributary rivers of the Kuskokwim River that are also
46 affected. Some of the individuals claim that the introduction
47 of the commercial fishing gear into the area starting in the
48 1950s up to now has had serious effects on the populations of
49 different whitefish everywhere in this region. Commercial

50 fishing nets were set blocking off the whole Eek Portage River.

0060

1 Kialeek and the Johnson River had the same problems. Back in
2 the earlier years, it was possible to catch tubfuls of
3 broadhead whitefish when you were driftfishing on the Kuskokwim
4 River in August. Nowadays, you will think that it is a miracle
5 if you caught one or two in a drift.

6
7 And possible causes: Number one is nets blocking the
8 whole river and being left unattended; 2. under-the-ice nets
9 being left through the whole winter; 3. beaver dams blocking
10 migratory routes; 4. overfishing; 5. commercialization of the
11 species.

12
13 And now he's going to talk about the issue of king
14 salmon. This was brought up by the AVCP Natural Resources
15 Department. Increasing number of king salmon or chinook are
16 being flown or taken out of Y-K Delta to the other parts of
17 Alaska and even to the outside world. This supposedly
18 subsistence fishery is flown out of Bethel, the transportation
19 hub, as fresh-iced fish, flash-frozen fish, slow-smoked, fast-
20 smoked, salted, jarred or canned fish, or prepared in other
21 ways. Some of the highly visible ones are being taken out of
22 the area as sport-caught fish or as subsistence-caught fish
23 taken home, to other relatives and friends. Some are being
24 sold under the table to the black market.

25
26 Years ago there used to be not many people fishing for
27 this resource. The traditional user villages were the villages
28 situated on the Kuskokwim River corridor, and its tributaries.
29 In the early years the fish camps were not as numerous as they
30 are now. Their fish camps were situated not too far away from
31 the villages. Nowadays, practically everywhere you go you will
32 see fish camps with increasing number of users everywhere. The
33 users of this resource have been steadily increasing every
34 year. With modern technology, it's easy to get into this
35 subsistence fishery. Once a person or family gets a foothold
36 into this area, and qualifies, it's a matter of getting a boat,
37 motor, and a fishing net and you are ready to go. With people
38 moving in from the villages, towns, and cities, we have
39 increasing number of subsistence fishers taking the king salmon
40 out of this region. We have seen Bethel grow from a tiny front
41 dirt street village to a town of better than 5,600 people, and
42 pretty close to 6,000 with the summer migrants.

43
44 With more people moving into Bethel, we have more users
45 of this resource every year. The intentions of the traditional
46 sharing practice are not bad, but the overuse of the resource
47 is potentially harmful to the biological health of the king
48 salmon population.

49

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) Go ahead.

0061

1 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. The item three is about Kuskokwim
2 moose. This is one major issue that has been around for years.
3 Nobody really wants to bring it out because it's a really hot
4 sensitive issue. The conservative estimate population count
5 from the previous year was roughly 1,200 (700 on the Yukon and
6 500 on the Kuskokwim). The current figures may be a few
7 hundred more. Our area has a potential of maintaining roughly
8 1,000 to 1500 moose in the Kuskokwim drainage in Unit 18.

9
10 Out-of-season hunting and illegal poaching are the two
11 main reasons for keeping the moose population in this area at
12 the minimum. The other reasons are: (a) predation by wolves,
13 (b) calf predation by bears, and (c) poaching of cows.

14
15 Possible solutions: 1. a moratorium; 2. enforce bulls-
16 only season.

17
18 With the influx of the Mulchatna caribou that have been
19 migrating through the Kuskokwim area, there is no shortage of
20 red meat. It gives our area an opportunity to increase the
21 health of our moose population.

22
23 Now is the time to do something positive for the health
24 of our moose population. If we give the moose in Unit 18 a
25 chance to multiply to a healthy level, it will benefit the
26 whole region.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

29
30 MR. ANDREW: Steve Kovach.

31
32 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik) Steve Kovach.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

35
36 MR. ANDREW: Population.

37
38 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chair?

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

41
42 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik)

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Steve Kovach will be next
45 on the agenda right after the break is over, under C, how are
46 the local animal populations doing. At the present time we're
47 talking about six villages and what we see as consideration for
48 c&t, and the lady will take testimony for caribou hunting in
49 Unit 22A. We're going to have ten minutes break right now.

0062

1 (Off record - 2:34 p.m.)

2
3 (On record - 2:50 p.m.)

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik), item C, (In Yup'ik), how
6 are the local animal population doing. Steve Kovach. Now.

7
8 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council, because
9 caribou and brown bear are on the agenda next under refuge
10 reports, I'm going to defer my comments on those two species
11 until then.

12
13 First I'd like to talk about moose. Due to a lack of
14 snow cover in the last two winters, we have not been able to go
15 out and do a census on moose. The refuge in cooperation with
16 the Alaska Department of Fish & Game have identified five
17 areas on the refuge for the census for moose. Three of these
18 areas are along the Yukon River. One is along the Kuskokwim
19 River from Kalskag on down for a ways. The last area is in the
20 foothills of the mountains surrounding the Tuluksak and the
21 Kisaralik Rivers. Currently our schedule, and it has been our
22 policy for a number of years, to complete one census each year.
23 We have five census areas, so it takes five years to complete
24 one round of census. As I said, we haven't been able to do
25 censuses the last two winters due to lack of snow cover in
26 order for us to get a proper count done, so we're really behind
27 the eight ball on getting our counts down.

28
29 Plans are currently in place to do one census either
30 later this fall or early in the winter, provided we have the
31 snow cover and the weather. If monies are available and
32 conditions permits, we will actually attempt to carry out two
33 of these census in an effort to try and catch up again. The
34 areas we have targeted for doing these censuses is, one, the
35 Niyak (ph) census area, which is in the foothills of the
36 mountains along the Tuluksak and the Kisaralik Rivers, and the
37 other is the Paimuit census area which starts from Paimuit
38 Slough, and it goes on down to Russian Mission area.

39
40 As many of you know, there is a check station on
41 Paimuit Slough during the moose season. This year that station
42 was operated from the 2nd of September through the 25th of
43 September. Boat traffic, number of people, number of moose
44 reported were similar to previous years. The actual counts
45 were 101 boats recorded going up the river, 79 boats recorded
46 down the river, 272 people going up, and 184 going down. Of
47 these, 86 of those boats stopped, which contained 284 people,
48 they checked a total of 67 moose. They recorded another ten
49 boats that were obviously loaded with meat going down river,

50 but those boats were not stopped. Other animals that were

0063

1 reported at the check station included three black bears, three
2 porcupines, and two cow moose.

3
4 One of the cow moose, the hunter was cited by Fish &
5 Wildlife Protection for taking an illegal moose. The other cow
6 moose was taken by a hunter who was 12 years of age. His
7 parents turned him in at the check station, saying he made a
8 mistake, he shot a cow moose. The Fish & Game confiscated the
9 meat, gave it to a charitable group. Which group and where, I
10 don't know. They didn't have that information. The 12-year-
11 old was given a lecture on proper identification of what a bull
12 moose is, why it's important to only shoot bulls and not cows,
13 and the importance of the regulations, and why we have
14 regulations in place, and then was allowed to continue
15 travelling home with his family. The basic policy of Fish &
16 Game is that if you make a mistake, and you admit to it,
17 basically no harm, no foul, so that's why no citation was
18 issued in that case.

19
20 This was the second year that a check station was run
21 on the Kuskokwim River. This check station is just a little
22 ways down below Lower Kalskag. That station was open between
23 the 5th and 25th of September. That station checked a total of
24 39 moose and 13 caribou, no bears were reported by hunters in
25 those parties.

26
27 As far as the current status of moose in Unit 18, the
28 last census effort occurred along the Yukon River in 1995.
29 There is a population estimate under tab E, page two, of your
30 booklets. That population estimate is still our current
31 estimate for the moose population. There continues to be a
32 large amount of habitat both -- along both the Kuskokwim and
33 the Yukon Rivers that is suitable for moose, but does not
34 contain moose, or contains very few moose. The refuge and Fish
35 & Game over the next two months will be attempting to determine
36 the amount of moose habitat we have available in the unit, and
37 estimate the number of moose that we could potentially support
38 in that habitat. The estimate of the number of moose we could
39 potentially have in the area is going to be based upon moose
40 habitat further up these same two drainages, as well as in
41 other parts of Western Alaska. We know similar kinds of
42 habitats, we know what the moose densities are in those areas,
43 and we'll relate that back to our area. Results of this effort
44 will be reported back to the Council at your next meeting this
45 winter, so you'll have a better idea of the possibilities of
46 what we can expect for moose in the area.

47
48 After that exercise I just explained, both refuge and
49 Fish & Game are going to be working together, asking for your

50 help, for the help of other local communities, possibly local

0064

1 organizations, communities, and local residents to help us
2 formulate a moose management plan primarily for the Kuskokwim,
3 but also to enhance the Yukon. We're looking for ways to grow
4 more moose is really the bottom line. We're going to be coming
5 to the Council next winter with our preliminary results of what
6 we estimate the amount of habitat to be, and what it can
7 support, and start asking for ideas on how we can grow more
8 moose in this region. With an idea of how much habitat and how
9 much moose it could possibly support, we'll have a better idea
10 of how long it will take us to reach the goal, and things like
11 that.

12
13 We're heard -- we've already been hearing from some
14 groups and people as to some ways that we might be able to do
15 it. One was basically suggested in that talking points under
16 -- in your booklet on moose, and something we've heard from the
17 folks over at AVCP is that, you know, we do have a lot of
18 caribou in the region. Maybe we need to advantage of that,
19 utilize caribou for our red meat needs in the region and put a
20 moratorium on the taking of moose in an effort to grow more
21 moose. That's just one idea that we've heard, but there's
22 certainly more ideas, and so we will be soliciting those ideas
23 from you in the near future.

24
25 Currently the moose population is limited by the fact
26 that moose are taken out of season. Cows are also taken
27 illegally, and there appears to be an increase in some of this
28 activity occurring. As an example, in the first ten days of
29 September, Fish & Wildlife Protection issued nine citations to
30 people in the very lower portion of the Yukon River for taking
31 cows or for taking bulls before the season opened.

32
33 Before I go on to black bears, is there any questions
34 from the Council? Okay.

35
36 Black bears. As you all know, hunters are not required
37 to seal black bear after (Indiscernible -- simultaneous
38 speech).

39
40 MR. DAVID: Yeah, I -- Mr. Chairman?

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

43
44 MR. KOVACH: Yes, David?

45
46 MR. DAVID: How many moose were hunted by the sports
47 hunters and taken down south instead of having -- hunted by the
48 people in the area?

49

MR. KOVACH: Well, for the season that just concluded

0065

1 you mean?

2

3 MR. DAVID: Uh-hum.

4

5 MR. KOVACH: Those -- not everybody's reported their
6 activities yet, so we don't know. People have 15 days after
7 they successfully harvest a moose to mail in their card to Fish
8 & Game in Anchorage, and it takes them a number of weeks,
9 months to get that information into the computers and back out
10 to us in the field in places like Bethel. We won't know that
11 -- we may know that number for your winter meeting, and I will
12 make a note to try and find out and report back to you on that.
13 I know the number of sports hunters in Unit 18 has always been
14 quite small compared to local take. But what that number is, I
15 couldn't even tell you right off the top of my head. I'll have
16 to research that out and get back to you.

17

18 MR. DAVID: Do you have any idea of who applied for
19 sports hunting? The number.

20

21 MR. KOVACH: Well, it's hard to say, because people can
22 fly into Bethel and buy their harvest tickets there, and then
23 go up river out of Bethel up into Unit 19. They're not
24 actually hunting in 18, they're hunting in 19. So it's.....

25

26 MR. DAVID: (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech).....

27

28 MR. KOVACH:just real to tell.

29

30 MR. DAVID:the estimate for people that wants to
31 hunt, but not to catch.

32

33 MR. KOVACH: Well, we'll be able to get those same
34 numbers when we get -- when people report their harvesting
35 activities. Even if they're unsuccessful, they still have to
36 report. And what I'll try and do is get the number of people
37 who hunted, but were unsuccessful, people who hunted and were
38 successful, just so you have an idea of the number of people
39 from outside of the region that came in to hunt moose here.

40

41 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. McCANN: I want to ask you, I'd been hearing this
46 -- someone told me that the over 65, you can kill any animal
47 what you want. Is that true? Like if I'm moose hunting over
48 65, I can shoot cow or anything that I want?

49

MR. KOVACH: No, that is not true.

0066

1 MR. McCANN: No, it's not true?

2
3 MR. KOVACH: That is not true.

4
5 MR. McCANN: Okay. Thank you.

6
7 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, David.

10
11 MR. DAVID: Those numbers -- in this case that there --
12 that you are reporting on, are you looking at the Unit 19
13 alone? Or ours?

14
15 MR. KOVACH: No, 18.

16
17 MR. DAVID: Eighteen. Unit 18.

18
19 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

20
21 MR. DAVID: And you're not even looking at the other
22 areas?

23
24 MR. KOVACH: No, as far as the moose counts that we do,
25 you mean?

26
27 MR. DAVID: Uh-hum.

28
29 MR. KOVACH: Right. No, we're only looking at Unit 18,
30 because the refuge does extend slightly into 19, but not enough
31 to make an appreciable difference. But the areas we've
32 established for counting moose are all within 18 itself.

33
34 MR. THOMPSON: How about the unit 21E?

35
36 MR. KOVACH: That's handled by another office besides
37 ourselves. That is -- there is the Innoko National Wildlife
38 Refuge which is located in 21E, they're headquartered in
39 McGrath. They take care of moose counts there in concert with
40 the Fish & Game biologist in Galena. And they count those
41 moose up in there. We do exchange information back and forth,
42 so we kind of get a regionwide picture of what moose are doing,
43 but we don't do those counts there.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

46
47 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman?

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

0067

1 MR. HUNTER: Alex Hunter from Hooper Bay. I'm a
2 subsistence hunter. As you know, this past winter, around
3 December Fish & Game was trying to determine whether to open a
4 moose season or not in the area. It would be more specific
5 just before the hunt was in the area that they determined
6 whether they were going to open the season or not.

7
8 MR. KOVACH: Are you talking about this coming
9 December?

10
11 MR. HUNTER: This past winter.

12
13 MR. KOVACH: Oh, this December. Mike, I'm not familiar
14 with this one. Do you know?

15
16 MR. HUNTER: Just what happened?

17
18 MR. REARDEN: Yeah, what we do is there's a ten-day
19 moose season -- Mike Rearden. There's a ten-day moose season
20 that's specified it be sometime during the winter, and what we
21 do is open a federal season and a state season at the same
22 time, so all at the same time, ten days. And what we do is
23 poll every village on the Delta to find out when people would
24 like to have that season opened, looking at weather conditions
25 and snow, and it can change from year to year, so that's what
26 we were doing with the poll in each village. And then we take
27 the average of all the villages, put them together and that's
28 the season.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David.

31
32 MR. DAVID: If there -- if the moose population has
33 declined in the area, Unit 18, is there any possibility of
34 transplanting -- or do you have monies available to do any
35 transplant or moving some moose to the area,.....

36
37 MR. KOVACH: Well,

38
39 MR. DAVID:life from Anchorage?

40
41 MR. KOVACH: Okay. You've got two questions there.
42 I'll take the second one first, because that's the easy one.
43 Catching moose and moving moose is a very expensive
44 proposition. It's also very hard on the moose themselves.
45 Moose always die in those kinds of operations. Do we have
46 money to do that? No. Has it ever been considered? Not to my
47 knowledge.

48
49 Moose in the Yukon Delta are actually a fairly new

50 phenomenon. They've only been in the area about 30 or 40

0068

1 years. What they've been doing is migrating down the Yukon
2 drainage, and down the Kuskokwim drainage, and they're just --
3 they're really only just penetrating this area out here is what
4 happening. They're trying to establish out here. That's why
5 we see so few numbers of animals out here. We've got a lot of
6 good habitat for moose out here. It's just that they've never
7 really had a chance to really get in here, get a good foothold
8 and build up their numbers.

9
10 MR. THOMPSON: Well, we'll take a moment and
11 concentrate on the native way of subsistence. At my time, the
12 elders always say any game is always concentrating down when
13 they're going to disappear. Now, we're trying to take a proof
14 on this. Now, moose are migrating down. At the end maybe
15 we'll have a hard time catching a moose. Let's think of that.

16
17 MR. KOVACH: A good point. Thank you.

18
19 MR. THOMPSON: See how it will work.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

22
23 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Black bears. As
24 I started out, black -- hunters are not required to get a tag
25 of any kind for black bears, they're not required to seal them
26 after they harvest them, so we don't really know how many are
27 harvested on an annual basis. There's never been a survey for
28 black bears in Unit 18, and there are not any plans for doing
29 such a survey in the near future. However, based upon comments
30 from local residents that we talked to on a routine basis,
31 observations that the refuge staff, Fish & Game staffs make,
32 the black bear population appears to be healthy and stable.
33 The population does not appear to be unnaturally high for the
34 area, given the type and the amount of habitat, and the
35 distribution of the habitat for black bears in this area. And
36 that's all I have on black bears. Is there any questions on
37 black bears? Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Frank?

40
41 MR. FOX: But if it's a matter of life and property?

42
43 MR. KOVACH: Defense of life and property? Let's see
44 if I can remember the state regulations on that. You're --
45 Under state regulations, you're allowed to defend your life or
46 the life of another person or property needed for immediate
47 existence or survival. You're away from home. You have, for
48 example, an inflatable boat with you. A bear wants to use your
49 boat as a trampoline, that's your only means of transportation.

50 You can protect that means of transportation. You have --

0069

1 you're out and you've caught an animal, you're drying meat,
2 you've processed it, you've processed that meat. Because you
3 have processed that as to your property, necessary for
4 survival, that is included. If an animal -- you know, if a
5 bear comes along and is trying to take that processed meat, or,
6 you know, whether it's caribou or fish or whatever, that is
7 allowable under the definitions of defense of life and
8 property.

9
10 The State requires that as soon as practical that you
11 report that such a taking has occurred and there is -- and that
12 appears daunting, it's four pages. But most of it is just
13 checking boxes off. There's a lot of choices, and you check
14 off the boxes. And basically just provide a short explanation
15 of what happened is what it is. But -- and all that is is a
16 tool for managers to keep track of what kinds of animals are
17 being killed where. If we're -- if we notice a cluster of
18 activity occurring in a place, it makes us like, oh, gee, maybe
19 we'd better go out and start finding out what's going on. We
20 need to go back and talk to some of these people involved, and
21 try and learn more about what's happening out there. Why we
22 have a problem all of a sudden. It's more of a mechanism to
23 help us keep track of what's going on, and to learn more about
24 what's going on and how many animals are being taken.
25 (Indiscernible, coughing) Really that's all it is, is a
26 tracking tool.

27
28 MR. CHIMERALREA: Mr. Chairman?

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

31
32 MR. CHIMERALREA: Carl Chimeralrea, Chevak Traditional
33 Council Administrator. Going back to that winter moose hunt?

34
35 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

36
37 MR. CHIMERALREA: I have a question and a comment. I
38 was going to ask you if you couldn't reinstate that winter
39 hunt. And the comment that I was going to make was that I
40 believe they were going to -- thinking about having the hunt
41 from December to the 30th, the ten-day hunt. That's -- I had
42 written a report to Fish & Game stating that it was too close
43 to the Christmas and (Indiscernible, away from microphone)
44 holidays. I was wondering if it might be -- if you would be
45 able to, you know, put it at a later date?

46
47 MR. KOVACH: Well, as I understand it, the winter hunt
48 is still on the books, and both Fish & Game and the refuge will
49 be going through an exercise very similar to what Mike Rearden

50 described, that we'll be contacting as many communities as

0070

1 possible, trying to get everybody's recommendation as to when
2 to have the hunt. If there's some specific concerns like what
3 you just mentioned about too close to the holidays, interfering
4 with holiday celebrations and things like that, you might want
5 to just make a strong notation of that when you're contacted.
6 Contact your neighboring communities, and, hey, remember, you
7 know, this isn't -- this is kind of a lousy time to be moose
8 hunting. We need to be home with our families and celebrating
9 the holidays, and whatnot. So, you know, if we get a number of
10 comments like that, that does help sway some decision making.

11
12 And, of course, the other trick in this whole thing is,
13 you know, we always hope, because it's only a ten-day hunt that
14 we try to hit a window in the weather where people can travel
15 safely and hunt safely, so it's a real tough balancing act for
16 us, as I'm sure you can appreciate.

17
18 Mr. Chair, I'll withhold comments on brown bear and
19 caribou until we get to that part under the refuge reports.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Okay. Thank you. Yeah. He
22 says this item number D is a very important item, and this
23 is.....

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)?

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik). This is a c&t on
28 moose, caribou and bear. It's Unit 22A. He said that he will
29 take that, and he hasn't set (ph) anything for our subsistence.
30 I'm going to talk about that before the person that takes
31 testimony takes over.

32
33 This subsistence has been referred to as subsistence.
34 It is attached to the human person. At the present time it is
35 an issue that's being -- trying to define by the Federal
36 Government. It refers to the lifestyle of a person, and that
37 it is important for the person be fed. And if a person is
38 lacking nutrition, he's not going to be able to live properly
39 and be able to hunt, and that he will be helped one through
40 that experience while I was here in Hooper Bay many years ago
41 when I was only 13 years old, and my father had died. And my
42 brothers and sisters and I had to take care of them. And
43 people in Hooper Bay had kept them going by giving me with
44 food.

45
46 Kipnuk, Chefornak, Nightmute, Toksook, Tununak, and
47 Newtok are those villages, and I feel that these are people
48 that are -- or these villages are left behind. And they were
49 excluding from hunting moose, caribou, and bears. And they

50 have not even considered at all. And we know what subsistence

0071

1 hunting and fishing is all about. We don't want to leave those
2 six villages out of the c&t. At the present time, the Advisory
3 Council asked the State and the Federal Government to go to
4 these villages and talk with them and listen to their concerns
5 and their testimonies to be included into the c&t for moose,
6 caribou and bear. And these six villages and be able to go
7 hunting for subsistence purposes for caribou, moose, and bear
8 in the Game Management Unit 18, we would like to have them be
9 qualified. Also, this Advisory Council, we would like to ask
10 them and to be able to vote on that in support of them getting
11 the c&t qualification. And we're asking the State.

12
13 And I understand that they're opposing the c&t for
14 subsistence purposes so that Hooper Bay, Chevak, and Scammon
15 would be able to go hunting for caribou north of the Yukon
16 River, but the State has stated no. And they want the Council
17 and the Board to review that. This Council here when we had
18 our meeting and told me the authority to support what we had
19 stated in support of the three villages to be able to qualify
20 for hunting caribou north of the Yukon River. And this is the
21 testimony that I gave, and the Board, the Subsistence Board has
22 made that proposal, and they have received the proposal. And I
23 want to thank them. Especially I want to than the staff of
24 federal subsistence people, especially Taylor and the rest of
25 those staff. Also our coordinator, John Andrew.

26
27 These villages, Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay, and
28 they told them, and that it was discussed. The Federal
29 Subsistence Board has approved that they be able to be able to
30 hunt for caribou of the Yukon River, 4/9/1997 and 4/30/1997,
31 stating that they can go hunting for caribou within Unit 22A.
32 And those people up north have also supported that. And people
33 that are opposed to it, the ones that are -- that -- the ones
34 that are opposed to it is the owner of the Standard Oil
35 Company. And also the State has opposed to that. And stated
36 that they want to take that proposal back to the region and
37 Subsistence Council.

38
39 (In Yup'ik) which includes the other six villages. And
40 they also want to hear from the six villages to testify that
41 they would be qualified to go hunting for moose, caribou and
42 bear. I would like the Council at the present to make a motion
43 to accept that proposal.

44
45 MR. DAVID: David O. David says that we Yup'ik people,
46 whatever the people in this region need, we cannot oppose, but
47 support so that they would be able to go out and do their
48 subsistence hunting and fishing. Yeah, and it's the same way
49 with me, that people even though I don't go hunting usually

50 share some moose meat with me. We are not like white people

0072

1 being greedy. I make a motion that these six villages would be
2 included to qualify to hunt for moose, caribou and bear, and
3 not to leave them behind.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

6
7 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I especially said that where I wanted
10 these people, the State or the feds to go over there and talk
11 with these people so that they could listen to their
12 testimonies as to how they hunt caribou, moose and bear in this
13 six villages.

14
15 MR. DAVID: I feel that the State does not have --
16 cannot tell us what we should do and what we shouldn't do. We
17 need to just go ahead and do it without any advice from the
18 State. The State of Alaska has been abusive (ph). I don't
19 think it has in 50 years yet. And here we have lived here
20 forever. I personally don't think it's right -- the State has
21 the right to tell us how to -- how best we can live our life.
22 So State people watch out. You're -- we are no pets. We are
23 human beings like you. We want to be able to get food, get our
24 own food like our ancestors. We want to feed our family, too.
25 And we don't tell you how to earn your money, because that's
26 your life. And in turn, we don't want you to tell us how to
27 live our life, and how to get food for our families. State, I
28 think you're sticking your nose out too far to our people,
29 because we are human beings who can think as good as you can.
30 But one thing, we know how to live our life as well as you know
31 how to live your life. And we don't tell you how best you can
32 earn your money. And I don't think it's right for you to tell
33 us how best we can get our food. Thank you.

34
35 MR. McCANN: Can I.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David, I would like to -- I
38 want you to ratify or explain how you move, included.....

39
40 MR. DAVID: Including.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE:in the customary, traditional
43 use.

44
45 MR. DAVID: Yes.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

48
49 MR. McCANN: I'd like to ask a question.....

0073

1 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

4
5 MR. McCANN:before we move it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before we do any voting, Billy McCann
8 wants to say something.

9
10 MR. McCANN: I think I can ask Fish & Wildlife, what
11 David's saying, is that -- or what he brought out, is that
12 those villages -- why is not -- they cannot hunt our area or
13 they cannot hunt to go up to the moose area to hunt? Why is
14 that? Is that true or what is this? How come they cannot
15 hunt? It seems to me that anybody can go hunt from -- like
16 people from Outside, I see them in the mountains up there
17 hunting caribou. Why these -- those villages cannot hunt, is
18 that true? I don't think so. I don't think the law can make
19 sense of a law like that, because Lower 48 -- I met with Lower
20 48 up at the mountains not long ago, getting horns, that's
21 about it. I think those people should be the first ones to be
22 stopped. I don't think that's true. Where did this come from?
23 First time I hear that. Would you answer that, somebody from
24 the State?

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike?

27
28 MR. COFFING: Yeah, I may be sticking my foot in my
29 mouth here, Mr. Chairman, because I'm not sure I have all the
30 pieces of this.

31
32 MS. DOWNING: Mike, get a little closer to the
33 microphone, please?

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, right there. Microphone.

36
37 MR. McCANN: Yeah, thanks. Give us good answer.

38
39 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech)

40
41 MR. COFFING:my foot in my mouth.

42
43 MR. McCANN: We want to know that answer.

44
45 MR. COFFING: Well, I want to address a couple of
46 things. One, I want you to know that there's nothing to keep
47 people from Hooper, Chevak, Scammon Bay from going into 22
48 hunting caribou. Nothing can stop them from doing that. The
49 regulations allow that. The federal regulations allow it, the

50 state regulations allow it. They can do that legally, no

0074

1 problem. Okay. No problem with that. What we were talking
2 about was the c&t determination. That's why -- Pat will get to
3 eventually on the RFR. But they don't have to have that c&t
4 determination to hunt there. They can hunt there today. Now.
5 Legally, no problem. Five caribou a day. It's not a problem
6 if they want to do that. It's just the determination that
7 recognized their traditional usage. That's the only
8 difference. But they can hunt there.

9
10 MR. L. WILDE: Mike? Mr. Chairman, what.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

13
14 MR. L. WILDE: In the event that you do have your
15 customary and traditional use determination, that gives you
16 preference over somebody else though, doesn't it?

17
18 MR. COFFING: That's true. In time of shortage,.....

19
20 MR. L. WILDE: Right.

21
22 MR. COFFING:there's not enough resource, then
23 you have to cut someone out,.....

24
25 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah.

26
27 MR. COFFING:you know, just people that have the
28 determination will be the last ones to be cut out.

29
30 MR. L. WILDE: So what they're saying.....

31
32 MR. COFFING: That's (Indiscernible -- simultaneous
33 speech).

34
35 MR. L. WILDE:is that in the event that they have
36 a shortage of caribou in Unit 22A, the people who are going to
37 be suffering the most is going to be -- in this area is going
38 to be Hooper, Scammon, Chevak.

39
40 MR. COFFING: It will be anyone that does not have a
41 c&t determination,.....

42
43 MR. L. WILDE: Right.

44
45 MR. COFFING:probably beginning with those who
46 live furthest from the resource.

47
48 MR. L. WILDE: Well, then the only three villages,
49 native villages in this area that will be affected, the only

50 three. All the rest of.....

0075

1 MR. COFFING: Well, there are other.....

2

3 MR. L. WILDE:the villages along the Yukon River
4 have that determination?

5

6 MR. COFFING: That's right. That was made at the
7 Board, Federal Board meeting some (Indiscernible, away from
8 microphone).

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we're going backwards. I
11 think the question is if those six villages could -- are able
12 to go out hunting for moose and caribou and bear in Unit 18.

13

14 MR. COFFING: Which six villages?

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The six villages is Kipnuk, Chefornak,
17 Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Newtok.

18

19 MR. COFFING: For moose, yes, no problem. All
20 residents of Unit 18 have c&t of moose. I'm depending on Pat
21 or Dave or someone to correct me here if I'm wrong, but the
22 residents of Unit 18 under the federal regs have c&t use. But,
23 yes, there's no problem. They can hunt moose there.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about customary and traditional
26 use?

27

28 MR. COFFING: They have that as well.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: They also have that.....

31

32 MR. COFFING: They have that for moose.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE:customary and traditional use,
35 I'm asking for three species: moose, caribou and bear.

36

37 MR. COFFING: Well, I think I would defer to at least
38 to the federal staff to tell you what the federal
39 determinations are for those.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

42

43 MR. McCANN: So long as the person has a license to
44 play with, they can go hunt.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, not.....

47

48 MR. McCANN:in the area, open area.

49

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike, I think maybe we could ask Pat

0076

1 why, Pat, why State want to reconsider Chevak, Hooper Bay and
2 Scammon Bay. Will you explain that to us?

3
4 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, let me do that right now. I also
5 have the regulations if you need those. Mr. Chairman, I'm Pat
6 McClenahan. I'm the staff anthropologist for U.S. Fish &
7 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence in Anchorage.

8
9 And I'd like to talk to you a little bit about the
10 request for reconsideration. Last spring the Federal
11 Subsistence Board as the Chairman pointed out approved the
12 request by Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay for a positive
13 customary and traditional use finding for caribou in Unit 22A.
14 Recently the State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game, asked
15 the Federal Subsistence Board to reconsider their decision.
16 The State is asking for more information from Chevak, Hooper
17 Bay and Scammon Bay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before you go on any further,.....

20
21 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE:I think it would be a good idea
24 to move closer to the mike like Mike did.

25
26 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay. Sorry. The State is asking for
27 more information on specific things. When I prepare -- when
28 you present a proposal to me, when a community like Chevak,
29 Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay presents a proposal for a change in
30 the customary and traditional use finding in the regulations,
31 staff, that's me, prepares an analysis to discuss eight things,
32 eight factors. The State is asking for additional information
33 on those factors, especially about factors one and four. Let
34 me read some of the questions that I would be asking to prepare
35 that analysis:

36
37 Does everybody in the community consistently use
38 caribou year after year?

39
40 What are some interruptions that might keep hunters
41 from taking caribou in the usual way? An example of that might
42 be the fact that caribou disappeared from the Y-K Delta over
43 many, many years, and only recently have been returning.

44
45 Is caribou important to you in any particular way?

46
47 How many caribou are the hunters in your community
48 likely to take in a year?

49

Can the hunters describe the areas they hunt or have

0077

1 hunted caribou?

2

3 How many people in the community hunt caribou? Who
4 hunts together? What kind of transportation do they use in the
5 hunt?

6

7 These are some of the questions that the State is
8 looking for information about. I will prepare a draft response
9 to the State's request for reconsideration. I will present
10 that draft to you at the winter Regional Advisory Council
11 meeting. This Council. And we will prepare it then for the
12 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in the spring of 1998. I'm
13 asking for your assistance in gathering more information to
14 include in that response. And so these are some the questions
15 that I have.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. We will call you when you're
18 ready for public testimony, if it's needed. Right now that we
19 have a motion on the floor and seconded, include six villages,
20 Kipnuk, Chefornak, Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Newtok, to
21 qualify in subsistence hunting, customary and traditional use
22 on the moose, caribou and bear. Is any discussion to the
23 motion?

24

25 MR. L. WILDE: Request roll call vote.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to roll
28 call vote.

29

30 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

33

34 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik) He wants to ask a question
35 about this proposal to Mike Coffing and to the lady that's
36 going to take testimony. He wants you to.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Taylor, there's a
39 request.

40

41 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: He can speak English. No.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 INTERPRETER: He wants -- (In Yup'ik)

0078

1 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik)

2
3 INTERPRETER: I don't quite understand that.

4
5 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's regional lands.

8
9 MR. GEORGE: It's like -- Mr. Chairman?

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead, George.

12
13 MR. GEORGE: What Paul is saying is that there's been
14 some incidents in the past where some people in the coast, it
15 happens in the Kuskokwim, too, the upriver people when they
16 meet coastal people, lower river village people about --
17 hunting moose up in their lands, he's saying so that -- so we
18 can stop these people from upriver to stop these lower river
19 people and tell them that why are you hunting on our land.

20
21 MR. MANUMIK: You can't hunt. You can't hunt in their
22 land.

23
24 INTERPRETER: Does he want to know if it has anything
25 to do with that? (In Yup'ik)

26
27 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik)

28
29 INTERPRETER: Oh, okay. He wants to know if that c&t
30 qualification is given to either the people at Nelson Island or
31 the villages of Chevak, Hooper, and Scammon Bay, that if you
32 understand that if these hunters go up north to go hunting for
33 either caribou, moose or bear, that the people up north that
34 have village corporation lands, do they know and understand or
35 do you understand it to be okay with them?

36
37 MS. McCLENAHAN: The only information I have about the
38 way people feel in 22A is that testimony was given by the other
39 regional council in support of this proposal. We're talking
40 about the 22A proposal?

41
42 INTERPRETER: Yeah. Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

43
44 MR. JOHN: Well, he had an experience where -- when he
45 went moose hunting up on the Yukon River where people were --
46 there's two people here that have been asked why they were
47 hunting in an area, or in the lands that did not belong to
48 them. This is in the upper Yukon River area. That is the
49 reason why he was asking the question of whether those people

50 north of the Yukon River does not have any problems with

0079

1 hunters from the southern, this area to go hunting for caribou,
2 moose and black bear in their lands.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

5
6 MS. McCLENAHAN: According to the testimony that we
7 heard at the Federal Subsistence Board, the other council, your
8 counterparts from that region said that they accepted, or
9 supported.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. I think though Kipnuk,
12 Chefornek, Nightmute, Toksook Bay and Tununak and Newtok, those
13 people should be qualified hunting in Unit 18. That's part of
14 their -- Unit 18 is -- that's where we are here taking care of
15 our people in Unit 18. If there's any way that Toksook Bay and
16 those people cannot go moose hunting in the Kuskokwim? Or
17 Kuskokwim say, no, you can't go? You go up north and go hunt?
18 What kind of people they are. Where are they qualified?
19 That's what I think the main thing is if they are qualified in
20 that area.

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman?

23
24 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech)

25
26 MR. R. WILLIAMS: I think what Harry is saying to these
27 newcomers that became a state by fraudulent means, us natives,
28 we did not consent, or our ancestors did not vote on the
29 Statehood Act or its provisions upon which the Fish & Game to
30 be regulating us aboriginals or indigenous people. What I'm
31 hearing is attempting of State, Fish & Wildlife Service to
32 determine and define what is customary and traditional hunting
33 is to us natives. What I'm hearing is the State wants to
34 exclude areas from different -- natives from different areas
35 saying you are in a different area and you don't classify, or
36 you don't qualify for this customary and traditional hunting.
37 To me that's a mouthful of -- I don't know, I'm irritated about
38 this. How I comprehend customary and traditional use
39 determinations is that all natives whether they're in a
40 different area of that area or not have traditional means,
41 other ways other than what these foreigners have come in and
42 tried to place within, or might be segregationists or separated
43 within each other, and divided upon within each other. And
44 that division with each other is not -- it's what is creating
45 all our battles against each other, and creating a division --
46 divided country like a fallen country. For us natives, that's
47 been a detrimental way of going towards a goal that we're
48 trying to accomplish. And one goal, our goal is to be united.
49 When we come upon customary and traditional use determinations,

50 I would like to see the whole spectrum of being classified and

0080

1 included upon people that are natives in the whole area, and
2 just try not to be using that, determine customary and
3 traditional use as a boundary way of excluding other people
4 that will eventually use that customary and traditional use as
5 when needed. That's how I comprehend. Thank you.

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman?

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we need to get a response for
10 Paul John's question. I don't think it is answered yet. If
11 there's any way that someone over here, State or Federal,
12 answer that?

13
14 MS. McCLENAHAN: My understanding of his question was
15 would the people in Unit 22A to the north.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Not 22.

18
19 MS. McCLENAHAN: Not -- are you talking about upriver
20 now?

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Unit 18.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, we're talking about this six
25 villages.

26
27 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, I know.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Six villages. Paul John's question is
30 to include -- He's from Toksook Bay. One of those six
31 villages. We're not talking about upriver 22 yet. We're
32 talking about the six villages.

33
34 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes. He wants to know what the
35 current customary and traditional use determination is for Unit
36 18?

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think their village.....

39
40 MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm not clear on the.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We never understand yet. (In Yup'ik)

43
44 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik) The question that he had
47 asked after the question of whether they would be supported to
48 go hunting north of the Yukon River was that he had experience
49 with another person here in the Council that when he went up

50 the Yukon River to go moose hunting, he was asked why he was

0081

1 out there moose hunting on somebody else's land. And because
2 of that experience, he asked do those people up north, north of
3 the Yukon River, have any opposition for them to go hunting in
4 their lands.

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I could take a chance
7 with this, I believe that Mr. John's question was specific to
8 Unit 22A, to the area of Norton Sound and caribou hunting, and
9 what Pat has mentioned is that the Seward Peninsula Regional
10 Council supported the proposal from Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay,
11 Chevak. They said, yes, we support this one. The Seward
12 Peninsula Council was in favor. They testified to the Federal
13 Board, the Yukon Delta Regional Council testified in favor to
14 the Federal Board, and so the Board passed, they adopted the
15 c&t determination for Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Chevak hunting
16 caribou, having customary and traditional use determination for
17 caribou in Unit 22A. I believe that's the answer to the
18 question that Mr. Paul John asked.

19
20 You have asked a different question about six villages.
21 You've referred to the motion?

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, the motion was include in
24 customary and traditional use in Unit 18.....

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE:these villages.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: May I respond to that?

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And you never -- you guys never
33 respond that.

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: No, we've been -- we've had several
36 exchanges to try and clarify Mr. Paul John's question, and I
37 believe we've now answered that. Now turning to the
38 motion.....

39
40 INTERPRETER: No, you have not answered that,
41 Mr. Chairman. But.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it would be better to.....

44
45 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE:better to understand clearly.
48 I'm going to ask Paul where.....

49

MR. THOMPSON: May we have order, please?

0082

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. We come to order.

2

3 MR. THOMPSON: (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech)
4 the Chair as you speak. (In Yup'ik) We can't make it a law
5 for them. (In Yup'ik)

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, before I call on Frank, I want
8 you to understand how we're travelling on agenda. We were
9 talking about six villages to be considered for customary and
10 traditional use for moose, caribou and bear. That's what we're
11 supposed to talk about right not.

12

13 MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman?

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

16

17 MR. FOX: (In Yup'ik) talking about the motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's the motion was for those
20 people.

21

22 MR. FOX: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're having what?

25

26 INTERPRETER: Discussion.

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman, may I speak for a
29 while?

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just Unit 18, (In Yup'ik) Unit 18,
34 right? Everybody's in Unit 18. Are those six villages in Unit
35 18 according to the state and federal guidelines? So they can
36 to out and go moose hunting and go caribou hunting within that
37 area. That's what they want to recognize, right?

38

39 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, on the motion, six
40 villages, three species in Unit 18, right? The existing c&t
41 determinations, if you guys wanted to look at page 97 in the
42 blue books, you would find that for black bear, all residents
43 of Unit 18, plus Unit 19A, some villages in 19A and some
44 villages in 21, all villages of Unit 18 are included in the c&t
45 for black bear in Unit 18.

46

47 On brown bear, it's different. The next line refers to
48 brown bear, and the c&t finding is limited to a small set of
49 villages. So the six villages are not now in the c&t

50 determination, but your motion would make a proposal for those

0083

1 six villages to be included for brown bear in Unit 18.

2

3 If we turn the page on caribou, the finding is
4 separated for south of the Yukon River and north of the Yukon
5 River. The six villages are not currently included, so your
6 proposal would expand, it would change positively to add those
7 six villages.

8

9 The next line down for moose, it currently reads that
10 residents of Unit 18 already have c&t. Those six villages are
11 already there.

12

13 So in your motion, the two parts that it would add
14 would be for brown bear and for caribou. Black bear or moose
15 is already covered. Already done.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's not -- these six villages,
18 looking at -- it's not even -- include in Unit 18, the
19 villages' name is not included for customary and traditional
20 use in those what you're saying, on the moose,.....

21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: Brown bear.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE:caribou.

25

26 MR. BRELSFORD: Caribou.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Caribou. Right now is original motion
29 is include these six villages for eligible moose, caribou and
30 bear. Any more discussion.

31

32 MR. McCANN: Has the motion been second?

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, second. (In Yup'ik)

35

36 MR. THOMPSON: I already second it.

37

38 MR. McCANN: All right. I call the question. Let's
39 vote.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The questions been called for, and it
42 was a request for roll call. Secretary George.

43

44 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

47

48 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik, Sr.?

49

MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

0084

1 MR. GEORGE: Ilarion Nicolai?

2

3 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

4

5 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) Steven White.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: Excused.

8

9 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

10

11 MR. DAVID: Yes.

12

13 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

14

15 MR. McCANN: Yes.

16

17 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

18

19 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

20

21 MR. GEORGE: John B. Thompson, Sr.?

22

23 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

24

25 MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

26

27 MR. JOHN: Yes.

28

29 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

30

31 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

32

33 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, ten yes, one excused.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Those villages are
36 included now, or recommend to include on customary and
37 traditional use in Unit 18, Kuskokwim -- Kipnuk, Chefornek,
38 Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Tununak, and Newtok.

39

40 And number two on our agenda is RFR in Unit 22E
41 caribou, and public testimony needed. Go ahead.

42

43 MR. MANUMIK: (In Yup'ik) The villages that he's
44 mentioning, if people, these people happen to come by your
45 areas for hearings, he's encouraging the people that are here
46 to welcome them, to treat them just like you would like to be
47 treated, so you could have your answers -- or questions answers
48 in a very nice way. You are going to be performing a survey,
49 aren't you? Or team of some.....

0085

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: On the spot. Right here.

2
3 MR. MANUMIK: That's why I asked, and I'm telling these
4 people to be aware of you people coming out, so that they'll
5 give you information for you. We want that information in
6 writing.

7
8 MS. McCLENAHAN: We appreciate that.

9
10 MR. MANUMIK: Yes, thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And I think we don't want to happen
13 again same thing that what we done right now for these three
14 villages, and at least the staff of federal or state should
15 come out here at those three villages and get information to
16 how they're using all that stuff, the question you had right
17 there. Because these people are -- have to know that. Do you
18 still want to hear from -- you still want to hear testimony,
19 have public testimony and all that, you said it's needed.

20
21 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, that would be.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How are you going to get that?

24
25 MS. McCLENAHAN: If people would like to make comment
26 now, or if I could meet with people after this meeting, or even
27 if I could remove myself from this meeting to meet with people
28 who are interested in giving me comment now. I'll be happy to
29 do any of those things. What are your -- what are the Council
30 wishes?

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Go ahead. I'm going to
33 give Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay opportunity right now
34 to testify. (In Yup'ik) The floor is being opened for Chevak,
35 Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay to hear your testimony on how they
36 used and how far back you go in your history, why these
37 particular animals were traditional used in our forefathers,
38 their time, because he himself in his time there were a lot of
39 reindeer, but these were domestic reindeers that he's talking
40 about now. And there were some caribou along with those
41 domesticated animals.

42
43 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

46
47 MR. L. WILDE: Can I have Pat clarify something for me?

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

0086

1 MR. L. WILDE: Why do you need this information when
2 it's already in the regulations that Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay
3 and Chevak have customary and traditional use of caribou in the
4 regulation?

5
6 MS. McCLENAHAN: The State has given us a request for
7 reconsideration. They've given that to the Federal Subsistence
8 Board. They are questioning this finding.

9
10 MR. L. WILDE: If it's already in the regulations
11 and.....

12
13 MS. McCLENAHAN: It can also be taken out of the
14 regulations.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: And is that what the Federal -- I mean
17 the Department of Fish & Game is requesting,.....

18
19 MS. McCLENAHAN: The State Department.....

20
21 MR. L. WILDE:that Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay and
22 Chevak be taken out of the regulation?

23
24 MS. McCLENAHAN: Until such time as evidence is given
25 on that -- these issues that I've asked earlier.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead. (In Yup'ik)

28
29 MR. CHIMERALREA: George Panegak, he's an elder. He is
30 an elder from Chevak, and he's a traditional council board
31 member. He would like to give him an opportunity to make a
32 testimony in regards to relating to caribou.

33
34 MR. PANEGAK: He said that he's from Chevak. What he
35 has heard, this caribou, the issue of caribou. A long time ago
36 our ancestors, there was a lot of caribou in the area. His
37 late uncle had told him a story. The area was covered with
38 caribou, and they used bow and arrows to catch those animals.
39 And in those days, but he has no insight, information regarding
40 the moose. But he knows about the caribou. They were in the
41 area and they were harvested. And when there was domestic
42 reindeer around this area, there were also caribou that came
43 around, mingled with the domestic animals. So in our history,
44 too, there were -- it was the custom for the caribou to be
45 around, and they were hunted by bow and arrows. So he said he
46 had not seen it himself personally, but it was the way of
47 living long, long time ago.

48
49 And in our -- if you look back into history, in

50 addition, too, is what he's saying, if you look in the

0087

1 archaeological findings in the old villages, there are a lot of
2 tools that are made out of antlers. That also can prove that
3 we were during the era, at the time when we were able to hunt
4 caribou.

5
6 MR. NANUK: Richard Nanuk. Long before he was -- long
7 before he was born, the stories given down that they were
8 hunters with bow and arrows, harpoons, using kayaks, going far
9 and wide to get caribou. So hunting caribou is not new to
10 these people, because their ancestral people have used it long
11 before them.

12
13 And that there as well, the coastal villages, they
14 don't mingle around with bear, so when they go off anywhere,
15 when they see -- when they sight bear tracks, they get away
16 from the area right away, because they're not accustomed to the
17 animals.

18
19 So long before our -- we were Yup'ik of old, they
20 hunted caribou. They utilized those animals, and there was no
21 rifles back then, and all the marine mammals were caught with
22 harpoons. So he didn't say -- they didn't say they wounded an
23 animal and let it go. He never see that. There were no source
24 (ph) of that nature. Every animal that were wounded was
25 caught.

26
27 So this day and age, because of the regulations, we
28 have somehow collided with regulations, because we are using
29 our traditional means of using the resources in the area. So
30 the State is just like a pilot. He want to steer us in a
31 direction in which we are not livable with. So it is your job
32 to correct those areas to make things right for both sides.
33 You are the tools here as a group, so you're not sitting for
34 nothing. You're working for your people. So wake up and
35 doggone do your job. So this caribou question, give them what
36 they need, so the caribou shouldn't be set to say this is our
37 animal, don't attend it, and doggone it, he means that the
38 caribou that when it's available should be harvested by the
39 people around here as well, so make both sides understand that
40 they're able to harvest without opposition from one side or the
41 other. Quyana.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Richard, (In Yup'ik). He's
44 telling the man who testified, Richard Nanuk, that this
45 information is directed to federal people so the State can
46 understand the concerns of the people. So this lady here
47 that's written back the write, they would like to have
48 resolution from Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay and Chevak. Or he's
49 got in his hand a resolution relating to -- he has in his hand,

50 in his possession a resolution relating to the support of

0088

1 hunting.

2

3 MR. NANUK: He wants to remind everybody that he has
4 given his life away when he joined the AT -- Alaska Territorial
5 Guards, and he does not get any pay or any money so if Japanese
6 have defeat us, we would fight back. So for those people, if
7 they have any opposition against us, so they would work without
8 asking for money to assist us, like he himself gave his life
9 away to assist.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

12

13 MR. SMITH: Niles Smith, Hooper Bay Mayor. He's going
14 to make a statement how they lived a long, long time ago.
15 Wildlife around here is being guided by the people that didn't
16 -- that weren't born from here, but the people that are
17 stranger to our area. So our ways of life was to survive from
18 the ocean, hunt from the sea mammals. They used their arms and
19 legs to hunt. They didn't have no snow machines, and when
20 someone catches a bearded seal from the ocean, it isn't his to
21 bring home or back large animal of that nature to bring back to
22 the village, which is hard work. But when it come -- when they
23 finally bring it back to the community, that animal is provided
24 for the whole community.

25

26 So the caribou is like that, too. He said if he can
27 hear someone that catches caribou, he perceives the fact that
28 they are able to catch one, and before the day is over, the
29 caribou meat walks into his house as a gift. So they know that
30 the caribou hunters work hard to attain what they catch. So --
31 and sometimes a long time ago there were no licenses to wait
32 for, so what they catch is spread among the community. So it
33 isn't kept by the family alone.

34

35 Like, for instance, right now these white people when
36 they catch one, they don't give it away for free. But if you
37 -- so the reason why we're so loud in opposition about the ways
38 of hunting and subsistence is because of the fact that the laws
39 are coming from the outside, and he feels now that he wants to
40 include Chevak, Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay and the other
41 villages, the six villages that were mentioned earlier to be
42 included, but if he have to be shut out or excluded out of the
43 traditional hunt, it's destroying the feeling of the community,
44 of the group.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

47

48 MR. JOHN: (In Yup'ik)

49

0089

1 MR. BELL: Mr. Bell. Joseph Bell, Hooper Bay Council
2 member. A long, long time ago when the snow machines first
3 were brought into the area, the first time he traveled far when
4 he -- the longest trip he made was to Mountain Village just as
5 a visit. And the second time he made a trip, he went to Pilot
6 Station, people asked him if he wanted to go moose hunting.
7 And they told him to go hunting, and he -- that's the first
8 time he caught a moose at that time. And put that aside now.

9
10 Now, my -- at this time snow machines were developed
11 and can go along faster -- a lot faster. When he goes visit to
12 Stebbins area or St. Michael's he has been told many times that
13 the caribou are close by, but he never did go hunting because
14 he weren't from that -- he wasn't -- he felt that he wasn't
15 from that area and it wasn't allowed to go hunting. So for the
16 first time last year he was invited to go hunt and that's the
17 first time he hunted caribou last year. When he got to
18 Stebbins and St. Michael's area, they invited him to go up and
19 hunt, so he was treated like a member of the community there,
20 and that's the first time he hunted at peace, in peace with
21 himself. So if this is the fact that the caribou is being
22 opened for this area. His heart is beating a little faster
23 than usual.

24
25 When I was a child, there was a lot of domestic animals
26 around here, reindeers. When the reindeer were around, it was
27 part of my growth. When the caribou -- the reindeers were
28 taken away back in 1949, they were herded up north. And he saw
29 that they were taken away, and he could see them in the
30 horizon, until they got out of sight. It was sad to see a part
31 of his living being taken away. So in light of that, when he
32 went north, as far as Stebbins I guess, so when they encouraged
33 him to go ahead and hunt, he told them that the only meat he
34 was able to use these days were store-bought stuff, but the
35 people there where he visited encouraged him to go out and
36 hunt. So he hunted appreciatively.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He's saying that the purpose of the
39 testimony is know something about the caribou, not domestic
40 animals, domestic reindeer. A real caribou. He knows domestic
41 animals taken away long after he was able to do a little
42 hunting himself.

43
44 And whenever an elder needs a fleet, a vessel, they
45 would design some coloring on the plates with animal drawings,
46 and right in the middle of the plate would be a depiction of a
47 portrait like carved into the plate, a picture of a caribou
48 carved into the plate. If those animals were not harvested,
49 that portrait would not have been carved into this plate. So

50 with that mind -- in his mind, he fought hard to include

0090

1 Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay so that they would be able
2 to hunt or harvest traditionally, because they are able to go
3 where the animals are. So he -- it was just like going uphill
4 trying to get proposals accepted, so what he'd like to know is
5 why the State has said wait a minute.

6
7 This lady here on his right, a long time ago when
8 people used -- if you wish to speak to her in private, you can
9 go unto her personally and talk to her about the caribou, not
10 the domestic. So the information now that he got from her that
11 the people here, Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay are
12 able to harvest those caribou on Unit 22A. And the resolution
13 or proposal was accepted.

14
15 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman?

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

18
19 MR. JOHN: When he was down in Purling (ph), Germany,
20 he saw a plate, a vessel. It was a caribou carved onto the
21 plate in a museum I think. He was down in Germany in a museum.
22 He saw a plate, a vessel that was made from around here. It
23 was that -- the vessel was made in 1800s, so that whoever took
24 that plate, vessel out from Hooper Bay.

25
26 INTERPRETER: Yeah, they're oblong things.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman?

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik) This comment's on my
35 children's behalf and the people that do hunt and subsist.
36 Recently we've been hearing a lot of determinations for us by
37 the State agency, State Government, administration. They've
38 even included substantial amount of money to determine for us
39 who we are. We are federally recognized members of each tribe
40 in the villages. I know that this Board will work positively
41 on our behalf. The State Government, State Administration now
42 is trying to determine things for us by stating like the moose
43 situation here. I think the process is going the other way
44 around. The tribal entities in our regions should be the ones
45 that already have determined what is customary and traditional,
46 not the State. And you cannot take a recess, like the State is
47 trying to indicate to us what we can do and what we cannot do.
48 We've already determined our -- already have established that
49 those things were established and used as traditional and

50 customary. I think if the processes going the Council system,

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1 native council system, traditional council system, I think they
2 would have a lot more power and meaning to our own
3 determination. That's what the State doesn't want us to do.

4
5 It's -- I think we should realize that Islamic (ph)
6 genocide is just as disastrous as determining things for us
7 native people. \$500,000 is a lot of money to fight our rights
8 that were already established and are already there. Those are
9 already inherent rights. The State and Federal Governments
10 should have realized those things long time ago, from the
11 beginning. The reason why we're having so much difficulty now
12 is that they haven't -- the State hasn't really recognized us
13 for being who we really are. It comes down really to
14 education. We spend thousands and thousands and thousands and
15 millions and millions of dollars educating ourselves in the
16 ways of the Western civilization. I think we need to spend as
17 much energy and as much money to determine or -- we'll have
18 determined those things for ourselves already. We need to
19 educate the State Government and the Federal Government of our
20 way, our educational system, native ways of doing things. We
21 already have policies, all we have to do is now to use their
22 tools to write them down. If they are not going to use them to
23 undermine our efforts at being independent people. We need, --
24 if it takes that much money to educate us about your ways of
25 doing things, I think you need to give as much money and
26 attention so that we can educate you on this, on the native
27 ways of doing things. Just not include moose and caribou and
28 everything else, all it really boils down to who we are.

29
30 They have a tendency to put an obstacle in front of us
31 for us to figure out. We are not obstacles. We were already
32 here. We know our system. I think that the real obstacle is
33 that they haven't been educated on our native system. And if
34 our traditional councils mandates the State and Federal
35 Governments to determine things, we're the ones that's supposed
36 to be determine things for them, not the other way around. And
37 I think we need to establish ourselves. We come from different
38 agencies, we work for different organizations, the State,
39 Federal Government or otherwise.

40
41 We need to recognize that we are traditional people.
42 We've got our traditional governments. The Federal Government
43 recognizes that, but the State don't want to recognize that,
44 and I know why. We all know why. They're finding out the
45 enormity of our resources. The process of taking over many
46 things did not start just recently. It started during
47 statehood determination, territorial/statehood determinations.
48 And mostly during the Land Claims Settlement Act. We need to
49 -- we're also educated on those. A lot of us are educated on

50 those.

0092

1 But the traditional laws of our people have not been
2 written down. I think we have a lot of tools now that are
3 available to use for us to write those things down. We need to
4 educate everybody that is involved in this process. The
5 division comes in when we don't understand where each agencies
6 that come -- where they're coming from. So we need -- I know
7 that we have the blessing of the federal organizations like
8 this. We need to educate the State, and the State should
9 allocate \$500,000 for -- to us so that we can educate them.
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Those of you, those are your
13 elders, you see, you should talk to this lady here, and he's
14 encouraging the elders to talk to the lady here regarding the
15 caribou used from their ancestral days. Why and how those
16 animals were harvested. So, so far so good. We are going to
17 move on to the next item on the agenda. I'm going to ask right
18 now report, E.1. Yukon Delta NWR, Refuge Manager Mike Rearden.
19 You feel comfy now?

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Prophetic.

26
27 MR. REARDEN: There are several things, Mr. Chairman,
28 on this list, and the first one is the steel shot update, and
29 Chuck Hunt will go ahead and do that in a few minutes. He's
30 more familiar with that than I am. Steve Kovach will do the
31 brown bear.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excuse me. Those people, the people
34 here, there's (In Yup'ik). Yeah. Go ahead.

35
36 MR. REARDEN: Okay. And Steve Kovach will talk about
37 the brown bear collaring project. He's got some slides to
38 show. And he'll also talk about caribou herds. So that leaves
39 me with emperor geese, spectacled eiders and waterfowl banding,
40 and that won't take very long. I'll go over the most recent
41 information we have.

42
43 On the emperor geese, we do two surveys every year, one
44 in the spring and one in the fall, and we base our population
45 estimate on the spring count that's done, where we fly from
46 about Hooper Bay down to as far as Cold Bay, as far as the
47 geese, wherever they can find emperor geese. And the
48 population has not been doing very well. It's been hovering
49 around 50,000 birds. The count this last spring was about

50 57,000 birds. It's one of the birds that was in the Yukon-

0093

1 Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan. The cackling Canada
2 geese have come back up from about 25,000 to somewhere around
3 160,000 or more. White fronts have gone from 100,000 to nearly
4 350,000. And brandt have remained stabled at between 100 and
5 130,000 birds. But the emperor geese are still remaining low.

6
7 We're not sure for the reasons. A lot of the birds
8 that are hatched out here in the spring or in the summer never
9 leave the Delta. A number of birds, the young -- a lot of the
10 young birds die before they ever leave the Delta. There's some
11 continued subsistence hunting in the spring.

12
13 Spectacled eiders. The status of them, they're
14 considered a threatened species under the Endangered Species
15 Act for the Delta. Now, there's spectacled eiders in Russia
16 and on the North Slope of Alaska that are not considered
17 endangered. They're in pretty good shape. The ones on the
18 Delta here, we used to have -- I'm sure the people on this
19 committee remember when spectacled eiders were a very common
20 bird on the Delta. Right now we have about 3,000 nesting pairs
21 throughout the entire Delta, and we feel that the reason is,
22 and the research has shown that the reason is because of lead
23 shot poisoning. Spectacled eiders for some reason are finding
24 the lead shot that people have shot for a long time, you know.
25 Nobody knew this was going to happened. But they're picking up
26 this lead shot, and it's poisoning these birds, and we feel
27 that's why the population is declining the way it is.

28
29 When the birds arrive on the Delta, we test them. They
30 have no lead. Within a couple weeks, a lot of the birds have
31 lead in their blood. When the young birds hatch, within two to
32 three weeks after hatching, even the small ducks that we catch
33 have lead in their blood. They're picking it up from the
34 Delta. And that's one of the reasons we're working so hard,
35 and Chuck's been working hard to try to get local people to
36 start using steel shot instead of lead shot.

37
38 The last one I was asked to talk about was waterfowl
39 banding. Our efforts have not been any more than they have in
40 past years, and we've dealt with the Waterfowl Conservation
41 Committee on the banding efforts we've had. This year was
42 about 700 cackling Canada geese and about 800 pintails and a
43 few mallards and teal ducks were banded, but that was the
44 extent of waterfowl banding for the year.

45
46 Any questions on any of those?

47
48 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman? Mike, on your count on
49 emperor geese, when do you think that you'll have figures and

50 find out exactly -- estimate how many, if there is any increase

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1 on the number or decrease?

2

3 MR. REARDEN: Well, we do the two counts, the spring
4 one and the fall one, and what we've agreed with the WCC was,
5 as you know, because you've been on that, too, is that we base
6 our annual count on the spring count. And the one this year
7 was just a little over 57,000 birds, so that we figure is the
8 population of emperor geese at this time. The next count will
9 be done next -- late April, early May, and that's when the next
10 count will be.

11

12 MR. DAVID: So this fall's count has already been done?

13

14 MR. REARDEN: It think they're probably doing it now.
15 It will be done within the next couple weeks anyway. Any other
16 questions? Thank you. Chuck will talk now about steel shot,
17 and then Steve is ready to talk about caribou and brown bears
18 right after that. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Chuck?

21

22 MR. HUNT: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. November -- it
23 started from 1996, refuge information techs and (In Yup'ik).
24 National Wildlife Refuge, city council, so the steel shot was a
25 course in this region. And include this in the waterfowl cons-
26 -- and try to do away with lead shot, completely get out of the
27 use of lead shot by 1998. All the information technicians
28 travelled to numerous villages throughout the Delta educating
29 the people, especially use and why they need to change over to
30 steel shot use. And the information was presented to every
31 village that was visited by the refuge information technicians.
32 A number, the estimates of the geese and why are they being
33 harmed by lead shots. And April 10th he went to 21, Kot (ph).
34 April 22, Kanektok. There was a little problem there. Twenty-
35 two people that -- high school students took the course and
36 nine adults. They didn't let them shoot the use of their land,
37 and they didn't ask -- first ask for permission to do some
38 shooting in the space out in their land. And in April 23, 24
39 in Kotlik. People who were there, 21, with adults, including
40 adults, 35. August 1997, there were going to go to Alakanuk.
41 They canceled that trip, because the commercial fisheries were
42 going on. And then they were going to go Sheldon's Point.
43 That also was canceled, because the people there who use
44 shotguns were -- many of them were working construction feats
45 (ph). And also in Bethel in August 15th, Eek August 19.
46 Nineteen were taught in Tununak, 26, 27. Fifteen were people
47 given instructions. Mekoryuk August 30, 31, 15 were taught.

48

49 The people who went there, were steel shot, given

50 classes on, Dennis Strom, Abe (ph) Andrew, James Bree, John

0095

1 Andrew, Drew Azuluk, Mike Kweth, Charlie and himself. And the
2 information given to them was why it was important to use steel
3 shot, and why it was bad to use lead shot. And it was directed
4 by the AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee, March 20. 1997,
5 March, they wrote a letter to 87 villages, including Stebbins,
6 St. Michaels, why it was important to use steel shot in the
7 villages, and how they can obtain steel shot shells for minimal
8 amount of money. And they made a movie both in English and
9 Eskimo so the message can go out a little more wide spread
10 among our communities in the Delta.

11
12 Those who were given courses on the steel shot use in
13 Mountain, Eek and Mekoryuk, they were exceptionally well. They
14 were really enthusiastic about learning of the use of steel
15 shot. So that was a good comment for those villages.

16
17 And then they will again comment -- I mean commence
18 teaching the steel shot use sometime in April. So hopefully by
19 that time, and that all the villages within our refuge will
20 have been given an opportunity for a class on steel shot use.

21
22 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. McCANN: Chuck, (In Yup'ik).

27
28 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik) Fish & Wildlife, but mostly
29 Alaska Department of Fish & Game (In Yup'ik). Oh, he's telling
30 him that Fish & Wildlife Service sent out to stores and cannot
31 stop the way they sell the lead from the stores. They have no
32 authority to tell them that they can't sell lead shot, but it
33 will be up to the hunter to decide for himself what's -- weigh
34 the balance between which is good and which is bad for the
35 future of the waterfowl. But they have gone to the point of
36 going out to the communities in the Delta, the importance of
37 using steel shot. So -- but we also told them that steel shot
38 -- I mean, the lead shot used will be -- like to be put into
39 history, because the steel shot use is going to be enforced in
40 the future.

41
42 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

43
44 MR. HUNT: Yeah, (In Yup'ik) open house (In Yup'ik).
45 When they had a meeting in Bethel at one time that they did --
46 there was a verbal agreement or -- How many did we have, Mike,
47 last year when we had that refuge open house, when we traded
48 off a box of lead shot for steel shot?

49

MR. REARDEN: How many did we.....

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1 MR. HUNT: Yeah, how many did we trade?

2
3 MR. REARDEN: Oh, I think there were 20 or 30 people
4 came into that.

5
6 MR. HUNT: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

7
8 MR. McCANN: Yeah, thank you, Chuck.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, John?

11
12 MR. THOMPSON: Only one waterfowl, we know now. Why do
13 the rest of the birds -- why do -- now they -- a long time ago
14 when I was growing up, they make their own shells and using
15 lead pellets to make their own shells. And he himself cannot
16 -- can't comprehend why one specie of birds, namely spectacled,
17 is notably being affected by steel shot, or are they the only
18 species that eat.

19
20 MR. HUNT: So Chuck is responding that the other birds
21 are also being affected by steel shot as well. And old squaws
22 are also have been found to have lead in them as well.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

25
26 MR. HUNT: Yeah. And also Pacific eiders are -- yeah,
27 Pacific eiders or common eiders. The report have not -- the
28 latest report have not come through yet. The final information
29 will be given to the Fish & Wildlife Service in the future, but
30 the study has been made to see how -- why the birds can easily
31 peck out the lead from the bottom of the ponds and the Fish &
32 Wildlife Service people in the Shunak (ph) area have tried to
33 find some lead as well from the ponds, but aren't successful,
34 so when one -- just a few lead pellets that are devoured by
35 birds can greatly affect and be harmful to the bird. So in
36 millions of -- in millions -- a number of birds have dead from
37 lead poison annually. So when the birds are starting to get
38 sick, they are not very -- they're seldom seen and found in the
39 areas, but they hide into the grasses and hide into marshes and
40 stuff, grassy areas, to be sick and die there away from the
41 visual areas of the people. So that's the reason why we
42 encourage the people in the region to switch to steel shot.

43
44 MR. THOMPSON: And see, the reason why I asked the fact
45 that Harry also made a trip down south, down the Lower 48 to
46 see where the people down in the states go hunting. So they
47 traveled in the areas where the hunting takes place. So in
48 light of that, he has always had a feeling that the people
49 around here are not the only ones to blame, but the people down

50 in the Lower 48 should as well take the blame for the decline

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1 of these species that go down there, because we weren't the
2 only ones that were -- that started out with lead shot use from
3 way back.

4
5 MR. HUNT: So all -- Chuck is saying that all of the
6 states down in Lower 48 cannot now use lead shot. It's against
7 the law for them to use lead shot. But they can use like
8 pheasants, -- can use like pheasants, quails, they can use lead
9 shot for those birds. But for the waterfowl, no. Forever and
10 ever and ever.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Chuck.

13
14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's saying if you don't.....

15
16 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik) that doggone course was given
17 in Chevak. He said he used steel shot, and he's not accustomed
18 to using steel shot, I guess he's saying that they they're
19 fast.

20
21 MR. HUNT: Chuck is asking him if the course was given
22 in Chevak, while he wasn't there.

23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So he says that to use the steel
25 shot for him is just like a waste of money. So he asked -- he
26 is saying that steel shot don't even panatree (ph) -- a path
27 (ph) on the bird.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana, Chuck. Mike Rearden,
32 you never finished yet.

33
34 MR. REARDEN: Steve is going to finish the last two
35 there.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay.

38
39 MR. REARDEN: He's got them.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Steve?

42
43 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Council
44 requested information update on the Kilbuck and Mulchatna
45 caribou herds. The Kilbuck herd, it's current status and size
46 we're uncertain of. The last time we were able to do a census
47 of this herd was in the fall of 1993. Since that time, we've
48 not been able to do a census on the Kilbuck herd, because that
49 -- beginning 1994 is when the Mulchatna herd started moving in

50 and joining the Kilbuck herd during the fall time which is the

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1 traditional time we've gone out to do the census. So we don't
2 -- we can't tell you exactly how big the Kilbuck herd is.

3
4 However, based upon the growth of the Mulchatna herd,
5 and the previous history of the Kilbuck herd, there's no reason
6 to believe that that herd has stopped growing. We believe it
7 is continuing to grow. How fast it's growing, how big it is,
8 we don't have any idea, but we do know it is believed to be in
9 pretty good shape and healthy.

10
11 The last census of the Mulchatna herd occurred in July
12 of '96. That population estimate put that herd at 200,000
13 individuals. For the last several years the Mulchatna herd has
14 been very productive. When the calving counts are done on the
15 calving grounds in late May, you typically found about 70
16 calves per 100 cows. However, in May of this year when Fish &
17 Game went out to count calves, they found only 28 calves per
18 100 cows. It is the belief of many caribou biologists that
19 this is a product of the very dry summer we had in 1996. The
20 cows did not get up to the nutrition plane they typically need
21 for when they go into estrus and get pregnant. If this is in
22 fact is the major contributing factor, we do suspect that next
23 year's calf count will again be low, because the -- we were in
24 again a drought this summer. The summering grounds of the
25 caribou herd were quite dry.

26
27 Following their pattern that they started four years
28 ago, the Mulchatna herd has been moving in earlier and earlier
29 each year. This year the movement into Unit 18 began sometime
30 between the 22nd of July and the 7th of August. On the 7th of
31 August we noted large numbers of caribou moving into the area.
32 We set up to do census; however, due to weather, we couldn't
33 even start the census until the 15th of August. We put three
34 planes in the air for three and a half days to census caribou
35 basically south of the Yukon River, or south of the Kuskokwim
36 River. This area pretty much denotes the area that we
37 covered during the census. Weather kept us out of the high
38 mountain areas in here down to this area, so that's why we
39 never got into the high mountain areas. Basically everything
40 from the Tuluksak River into the foothills, the Kisaralik Lake.
41 This is the upper parts of Crooked Creek, upper parts of the
42 Kwethluk River, the -- both sides of the Great Ridge, the
43 Kanektok River all the way up to Kagati Lakes, and all the way
44 down to Goodnews Bay.

45
46 As a result of our flying effort, we located 488 groups
47 of caribou. The total census count was approximately 20,300
48 caribou was what we physically counted. This is just a rough
49 approximation of how these caribou were distributed during the

50 census. We had a very -- we had a cluster of 1800 animals

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1 right here between Kanektok River and the Great Ridge. We had
2 lots of animals kind of scattered out in this area. Lots of
3 animals scattered in a contiguous fashion here. This is
4 basically between the Kanek- -- the Tuluksak River and the Fog
5 River. But in the middle part of August when we did the
6 census, this is basically where we found the caribou.

7
8 Just for general information, of the 488 groups that we
9 found, the average group size contained 40 caribou. However,
10 group size would range anywhere from single animals all the way
11 up to this group that I mentioned here which contained 1,850
12 animals.

13
14 As many of you know, both the refuge manager for Yukon
15 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the refuge manager for the
16 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Department of
17 Fish & Game opened the caribou season on August 25th, this is
18 the earliest date possible, as was recommended by this Council
19 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence
20 Board left open the bag limit to the discretion of local
21 managers based upon the number of animals present in the area.
22 Based upon the number of animals that we count and what we
23 believe are still probably going to come into the area, the bag
24 limit was set to the highest it's ever been set for this area.
25 Hunters this year are allowed to take five caribou. The season
26 is currently set to close on the 31st of March.

27
28 If significant numbers of animals leave prior to that
29 point in time, there is speculation that we will close the hunt
30 early just to protect the resident Kilbuck herd which likes to
31 winter in this area right in here, because we still don't know
32 what the status of that herd is. We still want to be
33 conservative in their management to protect that herd whenever
34 we can.

35
36 Just the Council's information, I was doing a routine
37 flight looking for caribou with radio collars last week. In
38 the process of looking for radio collars, I counted 15,000
39 caribou in Unit 18. This is -- basically all we do is we go
40 out, we find signal of a radio-collared caribou, drop down and
41 count all the caribou around the radio collar. This just gives
42 you a basic idea of how they were distributed as of last week.
43 Those are caribou associated with those that have radio collars
44 now and whatnot.

45
46 This large group of 10,000 individuals is slowly moving
47 north in this fashion. Where they're going to go is anybody's
48 at this point in time. Right now what's typical of these
49 caribou is they just kind of generally mill around this whole

50 area. They may -- you might find a whole bunch of them around

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1 Brush Mountain today. Tomorrow they're gone, they're over
2 along the Kwethluk River. The day after that they're in the
3 foothills, and so on. And they just circle around.

4
5 One of the programs that we've done in the past is when
6 we have larger aircraft available and good flying conditions
7 available, we do like to take interested local leaders along to
8 see how we do caribou flights, how we look for radio telemetry
9 animals, how we count the animals. We are going -- we continue
10 tracking caribou twice a month throughout the year, and if
11 there's any members of the Council who are interested in going
12 along on a caribou flight to see how we do this stuff, to get
13 more information on how we track caribou, how we count caribou
14 and things like that, feel free to call the refuge and talk to
15 myself or Mike Rearden, and we'll try and arrange a time that
16 fits your schedule and our schedule and the weather, primarily.
17 Is there any questions on caribou?

18
19 MR. DAVID: Yes. Those figures that you showed, are
20 they estimated figures, or do you estimate that number of
21 caribou in the area when you do that?

22
23 MR. KOVACH: No, those figures I have you are the
24 animals we physically counted. That's not an estimate.
25 That's what we saw out there. There's always more than what
26 you see, especially this time of year with no snow on the
27 ground. It's very difficult to see caribou on the ground if
28 they're not moving. If they're moving, they're easy to see
29 from the air. If they're laying down, they're very difficult
30 to see, because they're basically the same color as the tundra.
31 But the numbers I gave you, those were the animals we
32 physically counted.

33
34 MR. DAVID: Thank you.

35
36 MR. KOVACH: So with regards to brown bears, we've
37 never been able to provide a population estimate or provide
38 information on status of brown bears in Unit 18. You know, we
39 don't know if populations are stable, whether they're growing,
40 whether they're declining. We can't -- you know, biologists
41 both for the refuge as well for the State have never been able
42 to do this, because we've never had good information on the
43 population. However, based upon reports from local people,
44 general observations from the refuge and Fish & Game staffs
45 indicate that there's basically been no substantial change in
46 the population in recent times within the last couple of years.

47
48 We have noted at the refuge, however, a substantial
49 increase in interest in taking brown bears, this by both local

50 residents as well as by people outside of the region. There

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1 also appears to have been an increase in the number of brown
2 bears taken this fall; however, we don't have the final
3 numbers. We don't exactly know what's going on.

4
5 What this means to the population, is it too many? Can
6 the population handle the number of animals being harvested?
7 We don't don't know at this time.

8
9 As you know, we have bears with radio collars on them
10 in the Kuskokwim Mountains. We continue to monitor these bears
11 when they're out of their dens. We fly every other week. The
12 flying duty's split between ourselves in Bethel and our
13 counterparts in Dillingham. In June we went out and captured
14 25 of those bears that were wearing radio collars. We had 25
15 bears that had functioning collars. We captured those bears,
16 and replaced the radio collars with fresh ones. This is due to
17 the fact that the collars they were carrying were wearing out.
18 The batteries were going dead.

19
20 At the suggestion of the Western Alaska Brown Bear
21 Management area working group, and with the financial
22 assistance of the Subsistence Management Office in Anchorage,
23 we were able to take four local leaders out to our field camp
24 and have them observe and participate in the capture. In fact
25 three of those people who were there are here today, including
26 Fritz George of the Council.

27
28 This winter we will be discussing with the working
29 group the status of the research project and where it needs to
30 go in the future.

31
32 We have some slides from the capture just to show the
33 Council a little bit of what happened, and a little bit of what
34 goes on, and I'll show those in just a moment.

35
36 Next summer we are scheduled to have a new aircraft
37 available from McGrath and like with caribou, if there's
38 somebody on the Council who is interested in how we track
39 bears, and how the whole project works, if you want to call me
40 at the refuge or call Mike Rearden at the refuge, we'll be glad
41 to try and set up a time in which you can ride along and see
42 how we actually track bears from the aircraft, and how we get
43 observations of the bears, and track throughout (indiscernible,
44 coughing) of cubs and things like that.

45
46 So if we can switch gears here real quick. The black
47 and yellow ship is a Hugh's (ph) 500B. That's the helicopter
48 of choice that we use for when we actually capture bears. The
49 white and brown aircraft in the back is a Bell 206, and that

50 was what was used to carry our observers along so they could

0102

1 see what's happening.

2

3 Before every day we prepare our equipment and whatnot.
4 While we were preparing the dart, preparing the supplies for
5 taking samples. We draw blood samples, we take hair samples,
6 things like that for determining the health of each individual
7 bear. Everybody was allowed to observe the whole process to
8 see how everything's put together and how does everything work.
9 Ask questions of all the biologists, how everything goes.

10

11 In some cases the bear goes down in a place where we
12 can't work on them safely. So we have the capability of moving
13 a bear to a safer place where we could work on them where it
14 safe for both the bear as well as the people working on the
15 bear. And while it may seem unbelievable, our helicopter pilot
16 is so good he can set that thing down without the least bit of
17 jiggle. Generally (indiscernible) we can put the helicopter
18 down very close to the bear.

19

20 Once a bear is down, the biologist inside the capture
21 helicopter makes sure the bear is safe to handle, the
22 immobilization drug has taken effect and it's safe. The
23 gentleman here is Mr. Larry Van Daele, the Fish & Game
24 biologist from Dillingham. The other gentleman is Dr. Vic
25 Barnes. He's a bear research biologist on Kodiak for -- well,
26 he used to be with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, he's now with
27 U.S.G.S., the Bureau of Biological Survey.

28

29 When -- what we did this year, you know, this is the
30 first time we've ever taken somebody out on a capture that
31 wasn't actually a member of the capture team, so we had to
32 change our procedures a little bit. Basically a bear would go
33 down, the biologist would go and make sure that it was safe.
34 The observers you can see, they're reasonably close to where
35 the bear went down. The biologist go and make sure it's safe,
36 and then they say, okay, it's all clear. Come on down. And
37 we'd go through our normal procedures of checking the bears,
38 giving them a very quick physical examination, looking for
39 injuries and things like that that may have happened as a
40 result of the capture itself. We check ear tags we put in the
41 bears. We check the tatoos we put in the lips to make sure
42 they're readable.

43

44 Through this whole process, the observers were allowed
45 to get right in there and see what we're doing and how we're
46 doing it. We ask them to help as much as they felt comfortable
47 in wanting to help. They were allowed to examine the bears as
48 much as they wanted, as long as it was -- you know, the animal
49 was still fully sedated and what not.

0103

1 This bear has a new radio collar on it. It's nice and
2 white. It's -- in June they were white. This time of year
3 they're already brown and stained. Another view of a brand new
4 radio collar on the bear. Again, these are bears that were
5 already carrying a radio collar, and all we were doing is
6 changing them out, putting a fresh one on. The batteries wear
7 out after three to four years. That's why we were changing the
8 collars out.

9
10 As I said before, we take a number of samples for a
11 number of studies. We're looking at the genetics of the bears.
12 We take blood samples, do a blood profile work. We're looking
13 for exposure to diseases. We can determine a lot on the basic
14 health of the animal based upon tests we can run on the blood.
15 And we also take a series of measurement: the total length,
16 size of the skull, things like that.

17
18 You'll see some of the folks that we took out to watch
19 the process, and they really got involved and got in and helped
20 us collect information on each of these bears.

21
22 I believe that's the picture we sent you, Fritz, right?

23
24 One of the things that we do is weigh bears. It's not
25 an easy thing to pick up a 300 or 400 pound bear, so we put it
26 onto a solid material sling and kind of wrap the bear up, and
27 it attaches the -- as you saw when the bear was being moved,
28 there's a steel cable that hangs down from the helicopter. We
29 attach a scale to that. The helicopter picks up the bear,
30 we're able to read the weight, and then we put the bear back
31 down on the ground. And this is that process. This is the
32 scale right here. And then, of course, you've got to get the
33 bear back off, so it takes everybody involved to roll the bear
34 off of the cargo net.

35
36 This is a brand new radio collar about to be put on.
37 (Indiscernible, away from microphone)

38
39 Bears don't always land in nice neat areas. Sometimes
40 they land on snow patches. Sometimes they end up in the middle
41 of the willows. And sometimes they're -- they land on the edge
42 of alders and willows, but they're still out on the tundra,
43 grass where it's easy for us to work on them.

44
45 This is Frank and Roy examining some of the hair
46 samples that we took off of one of the bears.

47
48 That's all I have, Mr. Chair, unless Fritz would like
49 to add anything, any of his observations that he made during

50 the capture itself while he was out there and participated for

0104

1 a day and a half.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: One question that was posed to them guys
4 on how they use tranquilizers on bears was through, he -- the
5 question was imposed to them how the bears were tranquilized,
6 so I guess that's what -- he had an opportunity to go out with
7 the staff to see himself how those bears are tranquilized and
8 handled. So -- and the elders' concern was after the bear had
9 been tranquilized, if it is consumed by people, would the
10 effect of the tranquilizer have any affect on the meat that
11 might be harmful to the human consumption. Well, those
12 questions were answered accordingly.

13

14 That's their -- last spring. He went -- when he went
15 with -- that the radios that were caught -- I mean, the bears
16 that were caught had dead batteries on their radios and those
17 were replaced with new ones.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That was just a report for your
20 information purposes. Five-minute break. We're going to ask
21 Dave Fisher, your time will be up right after five minutes
22 break. Togiak NWR reports of whale and seabirds and all.
23 We're going to have five minutes break.

24

25 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik). This question
26 is directed to Steve.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

29

30 MR. DAVID: Yeah. What do you do with all the
31 information after you gather it? What is the information for?

32

33 MR. KOVACH: Well, the information we're collecting
34 right now primarily focuses on the physical health of the
35 bears, seasonal movements of the females, survival rates of
36 cubs, areas being selected for denning. We're only just now
37 beginning to get enough information on seasonal movements and
38 denning areas and things like that in order to start analyzing
39 it.

40

41 What we're hoping is that we'll get enough information
42 on those two topics that they'll provide us with a planning
43 tool for the future to look at things like increasing levels of
44 human use, like Kisaralik Lake is getting increasing levels of
45 human use. We know there's a fair amount of bear activity in
46 that area, and we want to make sure that human activity isn't
47 going to adversely impact bears and things like that.

48

49 The physical health information, we're in the process

50 of analyzing right now, and I just got a series of lab results

0105

1 back. In fact I haven't had a chance to even look at them and
2 seeing what's going on.

3

4 MR. DAVID: How much money is put aside for that
5 purpose?

6

7 MR. KOVACH: I'm sorry?

8

9 MR. DAVID: How much money is put aside for doing the
10 research on the bear?

11

12 MR. KOVACH: It varies from year to year. It depends
13 if we're doing a capture or not. If we're doing a capture, it
14 takes about \$15,000 just for one helicopter and the fuel.
15 Routine tracking is about \$10,000 a year, thereabouts. And
16 then there's different monies for different projects. Fish &
17 Game is doing some separate investigations. They're doing some
18 investigation looking at disease exposures in the past by these
19 animals and things like that, so they have a separate budget
20 for that. What we're hoping in the future is we can gather
21 enough information to determine how many bears are in the area
22 so we can determine -- if we can determine basically how many
23 bears are in our project area, we can basically estimate how
24 many bears are in the Kuskokwim Mountains in general, and that
25 way we can start looking at it from a management perspective as
26 to is there too much hunting pressure combined. Do we need to
27 restrict it to local people only, things like that.

28

29 MR. DAVID: I think it's a waste of money. Now you can
30 take a break.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Qu yana. Yeah. Before we go to
33 break, please remember that Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay,
34 we'd like to have -- address with this lady here regarding the
35 caribou or the history of how traditional use has been done.

36

37 (Off record - 5:15 p.m.)

38

39 (On record - 5:25 p.m.)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is Togiak NWR, Dave
42 Fisher.

43

44 MR. FISHER: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't
45 know if you were going to get to me today or not. We were
46 moving along there pretty good.

47

48 The fellows from the Togiak Refuge could not make the
49 trip to Hooper Bay, so they asked me to fill in for them. I

50 know a little bit about some of their programs. I lived in

0106

1 Dillingham for ten years. I'll do what I can here for you.

2
3 The first item we have is the walrus monitoring. And
4 as you know, walrus have been hauling out at Cape Peirce for a
5 number of years, and the Service first started monitoring those
6 animals in 1981. And they started this year around April 30th,
7 and they will continue to monitor those animals until that
8 Round Island hunt is over with, which will be sometime probably
9 early October. The peak number of animals observed this year
10 at Cape Pierce was around 7500 walrus, compared to a peak
11 number of a little over 3,000 last year.

12
13 They're also monitoring animals there at Cape Newenham.
14 Apparently there's a haul-out there that the animals -- walrus
15 have been using for a number of years, and they first started
16 monitoring those in 1992. The numbers at Cape Newenham are not
17 as great as those using Cape Peirce.

18
19 The Round Island walrus peak occurred on May 21st, and
20 that was right around 7,000 animals. So you can see there's
21 still quite a bit of walrus activity there in the Bristol Bay
22 area.

23
24 Moving on to seabirds, the Fish & Wildlife Service has
25 had reports that there's been a seabird die off along the coast
26 of Alaska, and in the Bristol Bay area the refuge has monitored
27 and actually picked up -- discovered a number of dead seabirds
28 near Kulukaka Bay, Hagemeister Strait, and also then around the
29 Cape Newenham area. And those birds are short-tailed
30 shearwaters primarily, and they're in the process of
31 coordinating this with Migratory Bird Management to determine
32 what the problem seems to be.

33
34 Moving on to moose and caribou, the refuge continues to
35 monitor moose in Unit 17, and in that portion of 17 where the
36 best habitat is, which is in Unit 17C, they're recently
37 observed a number of around 311 animals, which is a pretty good
38 sized number for that area.

39
40 And in Unit 17A, which has been closed since 1981, it's
41 been closed for a little over 15 years, that population in the
42 last four years has built up to where we had a hunt this fall,
43 and we had a season from August 20th to September 15th. A
44 state-registration permit was required, and you had to pick
45 those permits up in Togiak. And they had 12 bulls harvested.
46 But that's an example of effort there put forth by the refuge
47 and Fish & Game and those local people in Togiak, Twin Hills,
48 and Manokotak. At one time those animals were harvested pretty
49 heavy during the winter, and they cut back on the harvest, and

50 animals from adjacent units have moved in and they're able to

0107

1 have a hunt, which was a successful hunt.

2

3 The habitat in that area is capable of supporting --
4 the refuge estimates a minimum of about 600 moose, and
5 currently the population is just a little over 200, so -- and
6 that population has been increasing, so that's good news to
7 report.

8

9 The next item we have here is Nushagak caribou. And as
10 you know, that was a herd that was established in 1988.

11 Animals were captured down around King Salmon and transported
12 over to Nushagak Peninsula, and at that time 147 animals were
13 transported. The population today is a little over 1200.
14 Production has been real good, and they've had a limited hunt
15 there for the last three years. And those animals are staying
16 for the most part right on Nushagak Peninsula, but there are
17 several small groups that have set up residence around Twin
18 Hills. So far the expanding Mulchatna herd and Kilbuck animals
19 haven't moved down there and intermixed with the Nushagak herd.

20

21 The last item I have to report on is the PUMP or the
22 Public Use Management Plan the refuge is in the process of
23 revising. In the mid to late 80s, public use on the refuge
24 increased dramatically and the Service went in and established
25 a public use management plan to get a better handle on public
26 use and also better control of public use. And what the refuge
27 is doing now, they're in the process of revising the public --
28 the plan, and revising some various management alternatives.
29 And they're going to have a draft plan out for review here
30 probably in two or three months. And I'll make sure that this
31 Council gets a copy of that plan, and someone is here at our
32 next meeting to go over that plan with you people, and you'll
33 have a chance to look at it then, and ask any questions, any
34 specific questions.

35

36 That's basically all I have. I'd be happy to answer
37 any questions that you may have.

38

39 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman? Those birds, did anyone or
40 anybody reported how those birds, seabirds were killed or how
41 they died? Because we -- there are some in our area, too,
42 that.....

43

44 MR. FISHER: There were some?

45

46 MR. DAVID: Yeah.

47

48 MR. FISHER: I can maybe ask -- is Mike here? Mike, do
49 you know anything about the seabird die-off, the causes or

50 anything?

0108

1 MR. REARDEN: We got the specimens that were collected
2 from Nunavak, Toksook Bay and other areas, and they've been
3 sent off to the lab in Madison, Wisconsin, and they haven't
4 reported back as to the reasons yet. Hopefully we'll get that
5 sometime early winter.

6
7 MR. FISHER: Any speculation at all?

8
9 MR. REARDEN: Starvation is the common thought, that --
10 because of some regions in the Bering Sea. We also found on
11 Nunivak Island a lot of dead fish, starfish, and also some
12 flounders and juvenile crab, so the indication is that perhaps
13 warm water killed a lot of the fish which the birds feed on.
14 But nobody knows for sure yet. That's just speculation.

15
16 MR. DAVID: I've gone along the shore and I haven't
17 seen any fish that are washed on the shore, except for the
18 birds. There were quite a few last -- just last -- in
19 August.....

20
21 MR. REARDEN: Yeah.

22
23 MR. DAVID:that I seen when I was on it.

24
25 MR. REARDEN: We counted over 800 dead seabirds on one
26 mile of beach on Nunivak Island, and a lot of dead fish.

27
28 MR. DAVID: And for the walrus, has there any suicides
29 committed in the Cape Peirce area like has happened before?

30
31 MR. FISHER: No, not this year. Unh-unh. They put
32 some fencing and arranged some tarps, and that's kind of
33 deterred the walrus from climbing up, and then when they come
34 back to they water they kind of sort of washed away and fallen
35 off and then been killed. No, they didn't have that problem
36 this year.

37
38 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman?

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

41
42 MR. JOHN: These seabirds that have been found this
43 summer, this is not new. A long, long time ago those birds
44 when they drift onto shore dead, they -- their ancestral people
45 have said those birds are easily die off from year to year, so
46 this is not the first year that these birds have been found
47 that drifted in dead.

48
49 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik)

0109

1 MR. JOHN: They used to -- these ancestral people have
2 indicated to them those birds are susceptible to starvation,
3 some sort of death. You know, death.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I would like to recognize at this time
6 Frank Fox.

7
8 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: PUMP program. I think he's going to
11 find out PUMP program, Bristol Bay area.

12
13 MR. FOX: Across from you?

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, right there, yeah.

16
17 MR. FOX: (In Yup'ik)

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

20
21 MR. FOX: Oh, I'm sorry. He works Kwinhagak (In
22 Yup'ik) Traditional Council. And he has witnessed a lot of
23 people from -- the people down Lower 48 to go to his community
24 to the wild and scenic river. There is -- that area has been
25 used as an open area for people to come into the village and
26 then go up river and down, drift down river, and use a lot of
27 rod and reel fishing. And some areas there are some islands,
28 and they say that those islands in that area are better known
29 as belonging to the State. And some of those islands are just
30 sand bars and no grass, like gravel bars. So because of the
31 abundance -- because of the abundance of the people that go
32 through there, there has been left behind a lot of human waste
33 on the islands, and some -- I'm sure -- he's sure that all that
34 urine have drifted down river as well.

35
36 A lot of people in that area have gotten their water
37 from the stream, even there's a washeteria. And some of those
38 people have gotten sick and they had -- because some people
39 were getting sick, they let the river water get tested in
40 Quinhagak. And it only goes for the current -- the current
41 goes only one way throughout into the ocean, so -- and when
42 that problem is descended to our counterparts, they blame it on
43 the animals up river, but they themselves don't -- they -- in
44 the test it has shown that there were some urine found in the
45 substance -- urine substance found in the water testing. So
46 they had presented that information to the Environmental
47 Conservations. That's because they have the way of working in
48 the PUMP program.

49

And they themselves, what they're findings and the

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1 urine and body waste, they have sent those, but up to this
2 time no -- nothing has been done to stop or prevent that from
3 happening, so this program has to be revised by refuge people.
4 So they ask them to include -- there's too many people coming
5 up from the Lower 48 to -- because the directions that the
6 community has developed for land use is not being followed by a
7 lot of people that go through that community.

8
9 In 1998 they have -- they would like to have it, just a
10 plan for to use at the program planning. They are known,
11 they're recognized as tribe in Quinhagak, and they have a
12 system like a comanagement, and they would like to have that
13 established, and they would like their support from the group
14 here. So they would like to have -- they would like to be
15 recognized to have someone selected to be among this board from
16 Quinhagak as a voting member. So -- and he;d like to have it
17 sit down as a group as a voting member, not just a member in
18 this public use management plan. So.....

19
20 When they first proposed for this PUMP program, they
21 looked at them as another entity, but -- so he knows that it --
22 they are as native American they should be able to be
23 recognized for their efforts, and be assisted to comanage the
24 flow of people that goes into their community.

25
26 And in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, it was
27 established under Section 203 under ANILCA. Togiak National
28 Wildlife Refuge Public Use Management Plan, they should be --
29 the refuge should be able to protect those lands. So -- and
30 that if the plans are effectively used, that they are
31 encouraged to be used, and the refuge has also the power to
32 impose under ANILCA -- they should be able to -- they should be
33 able to regulate how that land is used in that area, so
34 therefore they themselves would like to protect their water
35 resources. They have that the water is used by the human
36 consumption, also it's used by the animals as well. And the
37 driftwood that come down through that stream, also used for the
38 people for wood. It should be put into Togiak Wildlife Refuge,
39 they would like to see the definition put in the water quality
40 regulation into the program for the benefit on health outlook
41 for the Quinhagak people. So that is forthcoming. He said he
42 looks at it as for like a foresight before it will go into
43 effect.

44
45 They as a tribe would like for the Togiak Refuge people
46 to see that assistance come from their resources and the
47 management plan be implemented and use the community people as
48 a comanagement -- yeah, under comanagement system. So they
49 would like their ability to do things like to be -- them to be

50 recognized, their ability as well.

0111

1 When they had a meeting last summer, this summer, that
2 he -- that tourists, even though they have guides, they wanted
3 to have the quality control of their land use. Even the people
4 have camping rules, but the rules are not being followed. The
5 camp rules and how the systems in that region or area have
6 guidelines as thick as a Bible almost. If even you can -- even
7 if you read them page by page, it would take you at least a
8 year to finish all the documentation, so the land use in those
9 areas is not -- it's hard to enforce, so they would like --
10 they're asking from Togiak resource -- Togiak management system
11 to establish enforcement for that area. If there's no
12 questions, thank you.

13
14 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

15
16 MR. FOX: Yes?

17
18 MR. McCANN: The question is the people who drink from
19 that stream, they -- did they get sick.

20
21 MR. FOX: Both children and adults. Those who drank
22 out of the stream had gotten sick in the past.

23
24 MR. McCANN: It sounds like to me, Fish & Wildlife
25 here, we're all trying to protect the fish, by the way we all
26 trying to protect the fish, and human waste is in that river
27 harms, probably killing the fish coming to spawn or eggs of
28 fish are dying from it probably. That we want trying to keep
29 the fish grow, and blame us -- sometimes blame us for taking
30 too much. I think that should be looked into with you people,
31 because I know you are protecting the fish also. That's
32 something that we should look into it. Because it's important.
33 Native people are said -- Fox said that they're drinking the
34 water from there. That's the only water -- served water there.
35 Also the fish. That should be not ignored. It should looked
36 at strongly. Maybe even us here, we should probably, and you
37 people look into it. There's a way to look at it. There's the
38 people that can do it. They're making money for that, then
39 they can be paid for that. Public health. To all kinds. Why
40 should -- is it being ignored for I don't know how many years.
41 That should be looked at. It's been tested. True. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: George?

48
49 MR. GEORGE: Quyana. My question's not directed to

50 Frank's, but to the agency, the Fish & Wildlife. Is the agency

0112

1 making sure that the right amount of human waste been collected
2 in the buckets and being dumped to the Blue Lagoon? It's -- it
3 seems like this problem's not going to be limited to Kanektok.
4 I'm also worried about Kisaralik, Kasigluk and Kwethluk which
5 are also being exploited by the sports industry. Can somebody
6 answer me that the buckets are being monitored? Is the right
7 amount being dumped to the lagoon?

8

9 MR. FISHER: Well, I can address part of that,
10 Mr. Chairman. I was on the Kanektok River this summer and I
11 did pick up -- the people that were in my group picked up a
12 white bucket at the wilderness boundary, and we used that
13 bucket until we got down to the village, and then there was a
14 method of handling that, and there was a disposal place there
15 at the village, at the airport site. And there was -- every
16 raft that came in had a white bucket, so it is being
17 considered, and the white buckets are being used. I know that
18 for a fact.

19

20 And as far as some of the comments Frank made as far as
21 human waste goes, that will be addressed in the public use
22 management plan. So we're trying to get a handle on it, and we
23 do realize that there is a real potential problem there, and we
24 want to address it.

25

26 I don't know about some of the other rivers. Mike may
27 want to comment on those, but I think they're probably
28 considering the same thing, because they're going to have
29 similar problems to what's going on on the Kanektok.

30

31 MR. FOX: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, they have also
32 established a river patrol system in their river, ever since
33 they found out that the water was contaminated, and they have
34 asked Togiak National Wildlife Refuge to assist and to
35 establish a river patrol system. Whenever the people are going
36 to be drift down that stream, they are given certain guidelines
37 to use. He said there are more unguided people that go through
38 their community than those that are guided. But they can't
39 control that. Even the native community of Chevak, that
40 community, they can't rather enforce sport guide. They work
41 with sport guide, and they themselves, native village of
42 Quinhagak have also requested to work with DNR, Department of
43 Natural Resources. They have pursued the possibility of
44 working together from the people from Washington, D.C. Like a
45 little while ago.

46

47 His reason for wanting to come here was to make a
48 report to the committee here, or this Council here, because
49 it's getting to be a problem where he come from. So he

50 appreciates the fact that he is able -- given a chance to come

0113

1 and make a report, because it's a problem. And when he does
2 find another village to have a meeting, this Council, he again
3 will go to the Council's meeting and present a brief report of
4 some nature.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Frank, I'm just looking at
7 duties and responsibility of this Council. In the duties and
8 responsibility, I don't know, is that correct, that any action
9 will be taken by this Council concerning that problem? The way
10 I looking at this, there's nothing in here that this Council
11 could take action on any problem like this.

12
13 MR. FISHER: Well, one thing you could do is you could
14 maybe get a copy of Frank's comments and forward those on to
15 the refuge and say you fully agree with a number of these
16 comments of the comments that he made at this meeting and he'd
17 like to be more involved in the planning process, and I'm sure
18 the refuge would do that.

19
20 MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman, Togiak Wildlife Refuge and Y-K
21 Delta National Wildlife Refuge, they are established under
22 ANILCA to protect natural resources in the whole area. They
23 are -- they should be working to protect the natural resources,
24 because they don't want to contact the high people up there,
25 but because they are looking at themselves, at the little
26 people, but they like to work with the group here and with the
27 agencies that are -- that should be concerned regarding the
28 environmental problem that they're having. Because he has --
29 what he had reported from this final -- it's not a finalized
30 statement, but he does want to present the documentation,
31 because he feels that it is not quite completed. So he would
32 like for him to have a copy made and give to the chairman, so
33 it can be reviewed back in the next meeting as to what exactly
34 to do with the problem.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

37
38 MR. FOX: You have a -- when it becomes a memorandum of
39 agreement and when it's done, he would like to hang onto it
40 until it's complete and then give the -- be able to provide a
41 copy to those interested agencies.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So he -- the Chairman is asking Frank
44 to provide them with the copy of the completed documentation.

45
46 MR. FOX: It is okay with him. It is also going -- the
47 copy's also going to be going to D.C. for study.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana.

0114

1 MR. FOX: Quyana.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we're going to have a break for
4 lunch, come back 7:00 o'clock for a couple of hours. A couple
5 hours, 9:00 o'clock.

6

7 (Off record - 5:55 p.m.)

8

9 (On record - 7:10 p.m.)

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Reports, on our agenda is number
12 three, Bureau of Land Management, Jeff Denton. Jeff is here?

13

14 MR. FISHER: Not here.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll pass that, scratch it
17 off. Association of Village Council Presidents, Tim Andrews?

18

19 INTERPRETER: He's not here.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He's not here? We'll take that off
22 then. And we'll go down to number five, Department of Fish &
23 Game.

24

25 MR. COFFING: I'm here.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. COFFING: Mr Chairman, members of the Council, I'm
30 going to be brief, and I think what I'd like to do is just give
31 you an idea of what -- My name is Michael Coffing with the
32 Subsistence Division, Alaska Department of Fish & Game. And
33 what I'd like to do is just tell you what kind of projects our
34 Subsistence Division is doing on the Y-K Delta so you have an
35 idea of what we're working on here.

36

37 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, can I ask, Mike, if you
38 can also explain why the need for the study that Pat's doing
39 concerning c&t for Hooper, Scammon, Chevak?

40

41 MR. COFFING: For caribou in 22?

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Just caribou.

44

45 MR. L. WILDE: If you would include that also in your
46 report, please?

47

48 MR. COFFING: Well, yeah, I'll try.

49

MR. L. WILDE: Just say something about it.

0115

1 MR. COFFING: I'll do that. Maybe I better get that
2 off my mind now that you mention it, before I do the other
3 thing here.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Before you start, we're not
6 recommend using that bathroom in there, because it's full. It
7 need to be empty. (In Yup'ik) Yeah, go ahead.

8
9 MR. COFFING: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to
10 comment and perhaps explain again very briefly, I'm not here to
11 defend the RFR. I'm not here to get in a real in depth
12 discussion, but I was involved in some of the earlier analysis
13 for c&t for caribou in Unit 22 by those Lower Yukon villages
14 that (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech) having c&t. I was
15 working at that point at Fish & Wildlife Service here a year
16 ago, two years ago when we did that. So I'm familiar with the
17 data.

18
19 I believe that what the State would to see on any
20 determination about customary and traditional use is that we
21 would like to see information that supports a decision. I
22 think all of you agree with that, that when you make a
23 decision, you want it based on good information. And the State
24 does not argue or I should say the State is not saying that
25 people here don't hunt caribou. I think that we recognize that
26 people here hunt caribou, that people in Scammon and Hooper Bay
27 and Chevak have a long tradition of hunting caribou. I think
28 the record shows that, the archaeology record shows that. The
29 testimony of local residents show that, and we know that there
30 were caribou all over the Y-K Delta at one time, and it makes
31 sense that people were using those animals.

32
33 I believe that the point the State was wanting to make
34 with regards to Hooper, Chevak and Scammon Bay was specific to
35 caribou in Unit 22A. That's up more in the Norton Sound area.
36 And the State wanted more or better information that those
37 three communities have a tradition of using those caribou up
38 there, of going to that area to hunt. And I think that
39 primarily is what the State wants, and I think that's what Fish
40 & Wildlife perhaps would ask people that would provide
41 information to them, to bring forth better information, more
42 information on traditional uses of caribou in that area, of
43 going up there to hunt, what kind of hunting pattern, when did
44 people go, so that that can be part of the record that can
45 substantiate the Board's finding. I think in a nutshell that's
46 what the (indiscernible, coughing).

47
48 Mr. -- excuse me, Lester, Mr. Wilde, does that help
49 explain what you would want from me to respond to that? Is

50 that what you were looking for?

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1 MR. L. WILDE: Well, if that's all you've got to offer,
2 I guess we can't ask for anything else.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. COFFING: Okay. Well, I also want to -- I guess
7 kind of along that line, and I apologize, Mr. Chairman, for
8 making this longer than necessary, but I do want to say that
9 when a determination was made for those other Yukon villages, I
10 think there were 13 villages that are recognized as having c&t
11 up there, several of those, if not all of them, were added
12 during the time that I helped do that analysis, to pull that
13 information together. And there was information there. There
14 was information for each of those other 13 villages to show
15 that they went there. There was map information, there was
16 harvest information and other things.

17
18 There is some information for Hooper Bay, probably
19 better information on Hooper Bay than maybe some of the others
20 I think. Perhaps Scammon Bay. But, again, I think the task
21 before all of us here is those that have information, be it
22 oral knowledge, their own personal hunting experience or
23 whatever, that's what we hope to be collected, brought forth as
24 your evidence to support the decisions here. I think that's
25 what we're asking for.

26
27 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

28
29 MR. COFFING: You're welcome. Thank you. There were
30 three other things I wanted to mention here, projects that
31 we're -- in fact we began today that we have been doing for
32 some time on the Kuskokwim, and that is -- Kuskokwim River, and
33 that is to gather subsistence salmon harvest information from
34 households from fishers. We will be travelling to villages in
35 the Kuskokwim area from Nicolai, Lime Village down to
36 Cutrukgroun (ph) to collect salmon harvest calendars from
37 people to again document and gather information of how many
38 salmon are use for subsistence purposes on the Kuskokwim. So
39 we'll begin that project we'll be doing that for the next two
40 months. And after that information's collected, we generally
41 provide that information for -- to the advisory committees in
42 their discussions for proposals, that sort of thing. Make it
43 available to the Board of Fisheries for their decisions and
44 management decisions. And we use it and incorporate it for
45 management decisions as well.

46
47 A summary of that information will be provided to any
48 interested and any Kuskokwim fishing household that wants it
49 free of charge. We'll provide that to the households in the

50 spring time. We mail a short report out with our calendar that

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1 we send out, so people can read that (indiscernible, coughing).
2 We want to share that back with people.

3
4 The second thing I wanted to touch on was, some of it
5 could happen this winter, some of it actually happened last
6 winter. Some of you on the Council participated in a meeting
7 of the Marine Mammal Commission. Mr. David O. David here is I
8 believe the acting chairman of that group. And one of the
9 things that our Subsistence Division did was work with and
10 through the Association of Village Council Presidents to
11 provide them some funding through a cooperative agreement to
12 fund a meeting for the marine mammals here on the Y-K Delta.
13 And we hope to continue that relationship with AVCP and with
14 the Marine Mammal Commission here on the Delta, and perhaps fit
15 the desires of the Commission and we get their approval,
16 perhaps to gather some information on marine mammals in the
17 region here, walrus and seals, and sea lions, for example.

18
19 One other project that may occur this winter is one of
20 gathering more information about subsistence uses of whitefish
21 and other fresh water fish, kind of in the Kuskokwim area. I
22 review applications for commercial whitefish fishing,
23 commercial freshwater fish fishing. A person comes into the
24 office, and wants to fish commercially. They go to Mr. Berkie
25 there at the Commercial Fisheries office, and they also go to
26 CFEC to get their -- they get their permit. I am asked to
27 review their permit application to see if their commercial
28 fishing activity, their location, the species they wish to
29 harvest, the amount they wish to harvest, (indiscernible,
30 coughing), and that sort of thing, to see if it will in any way
31 adversely impact subsistence. Will it impact subsistence
32 fishery using that resource. And one of the things that would
33 help me do that job better is to learn more about subsistence
34 uses of whitefish, of pike, of burbot and various fish like
35 that, so that I can perhaps help head off any conflicts which
36 may occur between the growing commercial uses of those
37 resources and existing and continued subsistence uses.

38
39 That's all that I have. I will take any questions you
40 might have.

41
42 I'd like also to mention that Ida Alexie wanted to be
43 here, and planned to be here today. She woke up sick this
44 morning and couldn't make it, and I wanted to let you know
45 that.

46
47 We also have in the Fish & Game office in Bethel a new
48 area biologist who's name is Roger Savoy. Roger had to travel
49 to Fairbanks and could not be here today. Roger ran the, along

50 with Fish & Wildlife, ran the check station at Paimiut this

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1 year, and he worked -- I think he has some experience on the
2 Yukon. His wife is from Pilot Station, so he has some family
3 ties down that way. Lauren (ph) will be in the Fish & Game
4 office as a wildlife biologist and perhaps will be at the next
5 Council meeting, or at any advisory committee meetings that
6 might be coming up this winter.

7
8 Lastly I just want to mention to you that there will be
9 a Board of Game meeting in Nome late October, later this month.
10 I believe the 24 or 25th is when they'll be there. They'll be
11 taking up game proposals for our area, for the Council's area
12 here. There will be a Board of Game meeting in Bethel this
13 winter, in January. That meeting in January will begin January
14 17th. I don't remember when we had a Board of Game meeting in
15 Bethel. It's a rare opportunity, so I hope you're able to make
16 that meeting. And then there will be a Board of Fish meeting,
17 Tom, you might help me with this. I think it's in December in
18 Fairbanks, is that correct?

19
20 MR. KRONE: I think it's the 2nd through the 9th.

21
22 MR. COFFING: Second through the 9th of December. Is
23 Fairbanks the location?

24
25 MR. KRONE: Yes.

26
27 MR. COFFING: And at that meeting they will be taking
28 up fisheries proposals again for the Yukon and Kuskokwim area.
29 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman, Council. Thank you. And any
30 questions you might have, I'd field them.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David.

33
34 MR. DAVID: Last year, I don't know if it's true or
35 not, but someone was -- one of the Bethel had told me that the
36 State ADF&G has come up with a permit for the people who do
37 their subsistence fishing with hooks, that are you asking them
38 people to buy permits for -- to do their subsistence fishing
39 with hooks with a permit?

40
41 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. David, no, we're not.
42 And right now there is no permit for that. If people are
43 fishing through the ice, it's subsistence fishing. People that
44 are fishing through open water with a rod and reel, or a hook
45 and line, I think technically that's called sport fishing.
46 However, and I say however, there is interest within the
47 Department I believe and I think some intent to work with AVCP
48 perhaps to develop a discussion paper or a -- it's too late for
49 proposals, but to get something in front of the Board of

50 fisheries to perhaps change that, so there is some interest in

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1 changing that.

2

3 MR. DAVID: Yeah. In that case, I don't -- I will not
4 agree with you, because the people who do their subsistence --
5 who do their subsistence fishing with hooks are only trying to
6 feed their families, and they've been doing it for -- before
7 you and I was born. So why should they -- why should the
8 State, which is not even 50 years old, step in and interfere
9 with their subsistence fishing on that? So I'm going to fight
10 that if you come up with that. I would -- I don't like it,
11 because those people are only doing it for their families, and
12 to put food on the table. And they have right to do so as
13 human beings, as different human beings. They don't have to
14 have you to tell them to buy a permit, and they shouldn't even
15 bother to ask you if -- for the permit, because its' -- that's
16 been passed down for centuries.

17

18 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, David, I -- yeah, I guess
19 what I wanted to tell you is that's regulation now. We're not
20 suggesting a permit to fix it. What I've been informed of, and
21 what I've read is that the Department will work with local
22 proposals to try to change that so that perhaps people can
23 subsistence fish in open water with a hook and line and won't
24 have a problem with. There won't be citations.

25

26 MR. DAVID: Yeah, but for the sports people, yes, I
27 think that your experience, those sports people are your
28 people, you work with them, and sell them the permit, but leave
29 my people alone.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) And I think this one.

32

33 MR. J. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I'm Jackson Williams,
34 IRA council member. You mentioned about the possibility of
35 whitefish. Is that more like a commercial type you're talking
36 about letting them doing? The one you mentioned on the
37 whitefish? And I'd like to get an update on the king salmon,
38 of a possibility for even for commercial. How's the status?
39 Are you guys working on that also? King Salmon on the river?

40

41 MR. COFFING: Okay. Mr. Chairman, if I could respond,
42 with regard to the first question which is asking about
43 whitefish, the majority of the commercial fishing, freshwater
44 fishing requests that come in include whitefish. So people
45 want to be able to harvest whitefish and then sell them. And
46 we do not, our division, our department, does not have a lot of
47 current information about where are significant and important
48 whitefish fishing locations, how much is used for subsistence.
49 That sort of thing. So that's the kind of information I would

50 be interested in bringing to subsistence fisheries.

0120

1 MR. J. WILLIAMS: How about the other species like
2 redfish (ph)?

3
4 MR. COFFING: Well, that would be included. It would
5 be -- it wouldn't be just probably whitefish. It would be
6 several species, hush (ph), whitefish, pike, for example,
7 codfish.

8
9 With regards to king salmon, I can't answer a question
10 related to biology with chinook on the Kuskokwim. So, you
11 know, I'm not going to even try that. There are some other
12 staff from commercial fisheries who do want to talk to you when
13 I'm finished here, and whether they have staff here that can
14 answer that or not, we will -- you know, we can get some
15 answers for you from other staff. The Kuskokwim management
16 staff in the Bethel office also were not able to make it here,
17 but I think we can get some answers for you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

20
21 MR. THOMPSON: About whitefish. I think we had enough
22 problem with kings and chums as a commercial. I hate to see
23 another addition to fight over about whitefish. This is a
24 year-round, our meat on the table for whitefish. And I don't
25 think there is that much fish for commercialize. I don't know
26 about the other people, but I hate to see starting for another
27 fight as a commercially.

28
29 MR. COFFING: One thing, Mr. Chairman.....

30
31 MR. THOMPSON: I think.....

32
33 MR. COFFING: I'm sorry.

34
35 MR. THOMPSON:the way it's existing at the
36 present time, you will see it in the stores once in a while,
37 which isn't amount to anything to exchange or let native people
38 in community to have a little whitefish for themselves. And I
39 don't think it's a big deal. Once we solve the king and the
40 chum, then you could add on something else. We still have a
41 problem with those two species.

42
43 MR. COFFING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Thompson,
44 thank you. I guess one response I would have is just some --
45 just a reminder to the Council and everybody that the State
46 still has a priority, subsistence is still number one, and I
47 think the State wants to make sure that there's adequate
48 numbers of fish out there for, you know, -- that the
49 populations are healthy and adequate fish there to spawn and so

50 forth, and ensuring that there's protection for subsistence

0121

1 uses is certainly part of that and will remain.

2
3 MR. THOMPSON: I don't know about the other people that
4 have concerns about the whitefish.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill?

7
8 MR. McCANN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds
9 like to me like you said it's going to be a problem. I think
10 it's right, because like whitefish and loffs (ph) and pike is
11 being included in that, to me, it looks like. You said
12 something about. Which we include -- put it into the
13 commercial license. Then we fought -- then we'll end up in
14 fight over again, because if commercially whitefish included,
15 loffs, which is not very many, pike, only we hunt -- I mean
16 fish by falltime before freeze up or after freeze up on pikes.
17 Not very many for drying up to -- for summer use. Dried pike
18 fish. If it's commercially -- I think it's going to be a
19 problem again. Big problem. Because it -- we might end up in
20 we can't even fish with no commercial license. That's what it
21 ends up. I'm sure it will end up. Because you've got to have
22 a license for commercially, it's going to end we can't get them
23 without license, even we don't sell them. I think that's going
24 to be problem. So we shouldn't accept it. The way it is now,
25 there's nothing wrong with. No problem. Some little amount
26 like traded in for something, and I don't know, in whitefish
27 only, no loffs and pike.

28
29 MR. COFFING: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Okay. (In Yup'ik)

32
33 MR. SAKS: Mr. Chairman, I'm Richard Saks, I work with
34 the Chevak Tribal Courts, and I represent the Fishumuit (ph)
35 tribe. My question for this guy right here was -- well, I had
36 a questions and then I wanted to make a comment, if I may,
37 Mr. Chairman. Earlier Mr. Wilde made a comment to asking about
38 why the State is trying to have this regulation or this law
39 approved that's already been approved, to be -- you know, why
40 it's being taken out, because one law may supersede another.
41 And my question is, you know, why that was being done. And my
42 reasoning for my question is because the customary and
43 traditional councils should be defined by the tribes, not using
44 Webster's definition, federal or state definition of customary
45 and traditional, because we are the people that live here.

46
47 And the other thing is that customary and traditional
48 should also be described by the tribes, because what may work
49 for one tribe may not work for another tribe, because of their

50 different locations, or different seasons for catching

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1 different game or fish.

2

3 The other thing I wanted to point out was that the
4 subsistence on the guidelines should not be overlooked, because
5 natives and tribes should be included in every step of the way,
6 and I did not hear of your request for reconsideration until
7 just yesterday, or today as it's being requested. And not only
8 that, Mr. Stevens had extended the deadline for subsistence
9 management of certain fish or game for another year, and that
10 was done closed -- on closed door, and I don't believe that
11 anybody from the Board was even talked to, and if he did, then
12 I really wouldn't have known about it.

13

14 This Board should hold fast on their approval of
15 Proposal 54, and we as the Kashimee (ph) Tribe are going to ask
16 you for your support, to hold fast on that, because the caribou
17 did migrate as did our -- the caribou do migrate as has our
18 ancestors have in the past, and we may be talking about the
19 same tribe that those people in 22A and Unit 18, or these three
20 villages that we're talking about in question are. And you
21 cannot come into our tribe and tell us what is our custom and
22 what is our tradition. And it's just as I say, that, you know,
23 these caribou are migratory, inasmuch as our ancestors were.
24 And we are -- to this day, we are stationary. We have to go to
25 where these herds are in an effort to try to catch the thing.
26 We can -- we're not migrating as our ancestors have.

27

28 And that was my point, and I'd like to thank you for
29 your time, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have a response?

32

33 MR. COFFING: Well, I'm -- Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure
34 what the question was I need to respond to. I was going to
35 say, you know, I'm not sure when the RFR was received by Fish &
36 Wildlife Service. So, you know, I suppose it was put together
37 with a packet of information for the public to see here as
38 well. And primarily I think so that Fish & Wildlife could
39 gather more information from especially the three communities
40 affected. It's certainly not a dead issue. And as far as the
41 State putting in the RFR, I think, I was not at the meeting,
42 but I think from reading the record that at the time the
43 proposal was discussed at the Federal Board meeting this past
44 spring, that the State voiced several of the same concerns that
45 are in the RFR at the time that proposal was adopted. And I
46 think the State was simply following the administrative
47 procedures that are provided through the federal system in how
48 to deal with newly adopted regulations that the State has
49 concerns about. So that's why the RFR is here as well. The

50 State's simply following the procedure. You know, I -- again I

0123

1 think the over-all outcome of this is -- can be positive, and
2 that is you're going to through more information going to Fish
3 & Wildlife, you know, you have the potential here to strengthen
4 your record, to provide more information that can help validate
5 the determination that was made. And I think it's a good
6 opportunity for those two villages to provide information to
7 Pat there to record, document (Indiscernible, away from
8 microphone).

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like Mike or
13 someone from the State agency to bring the Advisory Council up
14 to date on the Governor's proposal on this subsistence fish and
15 game management, the Stat's position, to the -- what they came
16 up with, the basic package I think, so I'd like for him to
17 explain what it all means to the Advisory Council and to the
18 public, so that they can understand what the Governor is
19 proposing.

20
21 MR. COFFING: I appreciate your request, but I'm not
22 prepared to do that, because I don't -- I'm not knowledgeable
23 about.....

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -- simultaneous
26 speech) somebody from the State?

27
28 MR. COFFING: I don't think we have anybody here that's
29 going to be able to explain that to you. I think that, you
30 know, after we get out of the meeting, I can get your name and
31 address, and I can get some information to you that will help
32 explain that, and perhaps answer some of your questions.

33
34 MR. SAKS: Just one question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A quick one.

37
38 MR. SAKS: A quick one. When was this RFR drafted, and
39 is it still in the draft form, or is it being -- has it been
40 finalized and is it now being presented to the Board, or is it
41 up for public hearing?

42
43 MR. COFFING: I think I'm going to defer that to
44 somebody in the federal -- on the federal side, because I don't
45 -- it is final, it has been submitted to Fish & Wildlife
46 Service. I'm not sure what their strategy is for how to work
47 this out and get more information. I think there is a plan to
48 provide additional information and discuss it later on this
49 winter, but again I'm going to pass that question on to someone

50 else on the federal side.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We thank you, Mike. At this time it
2 says others. The reason they're talking about the fish and all
3 that and king salmon once in a while and all that, I think the
4 reason I'm going to give one of the Fish & Game Department,
5 that they'll give us a chance to go over something that
6 transplant what -- we're having a transplant right now for the
7 subsistence region. ADF&G commercial fishery, one of the
8 expertise person, Tom Krone is one of the people that know --
9 work with there, he know about they're working on right now.
10 Try to increase the king salmon and some salmons. What people
11 from here, Hooper Bay, Chevak, all the way to up north
12 somewhere, they use them for commercial and subsistence. I
13 think, Tom, if you could go for a while and explain to these
14 people here what the Yukon Canada negotiation working and how,
15 we would appreciate that. We'll give you the time right now.

16
17 MR. KRONE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dan Bergstrom has
18 a short presentation also. And maybe it would be best if
19 (indiscernible, coughing). Mr. Chairman, would it be okay if
20 Dan.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. yeah.

23
24 MR. KRONE: (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech).

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The reason why he want -- they have
27 interest in this, he would like to see the Scammon, Hooper Bay,
28 Chevak, they do have some commercial fishermen that derive out
29 of these two communities that were up north through the Yukon
30 to commercial fish. And they are interested in -- is that
31 trade could be increased.

32
33 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, my name is Dan
34 Bergstrom, and I'm the area biologist for the Yukon River area.
35 I do the herring at Polchok (ph) Bay, and then king and summer
36 chum salmon on the Yukon for commercial, subsistence fishery
37 management. And this is the first Regional Advisory Council
38 meeting I've been able to attend, and I wanted to come and see
39 how it was -- how it worked, and to see the people that are on
40 it.

41
42 And I have -- will somewhat have an attempt at the
43 Governor's Subsistence Task Force package, and I think it was
44 part of the Department consensus with that is the regional
45 advisory councils are here to stay and they'll be an important
46 and active role in subsistence management in Alaska.

47
48 And as far as being here, I thought Hooper Bay, since
49 the Kopchuk herring fishery's important in this area, I brought

50 a season summary that's on the counter in the back so that

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1 interest fishermen here could pick one of those up and get the
2 catches by period for this last season, and the roe
3 percentages. And it's got the estimated dollar value.

4
5 There's only two main points I think to this fishing
6 season for herring, and one of them was that we had a good age
7 composition. We had a lot of nine-year-olds and we had a lot
8 of four-year-olds, so that's good having young four-year-olds.
9 They should be here for the next, you know, several years we
10 should have that age group coming back in the fishery. And
11 then the other thing that wasn't so good is the market
12 conditions were really poor for the herring fishery all across
13 the State, and prices were really low, and we don't know if
14 that's going to change for next year or not.

15
16 As far as the Lower Yukon salmon summary, the king run
17 was very good. It was better than we anticipated preseason,
18 and we had good escapements from basically the Andreafsky River
19 right on through the Tanana and into Canada.

20
21 Summer and fall chum runs were substantially lower than
22 the last couple of years that were really big, good runs. This
23 year it was down some. We probably made about half of the
24 summer chum escapements, and then there was that East Fork
25 Andreafsky and South Fork Koyukuk and Gisasa Rivers were lower
26 than they should have been.

27
28 Fall chum run so far is stilling doing escapements
29 surveys in the Tanana drainage and they're still entering
30 Canada. It looks like it's -- the escapements will probably be
31 fairly good in Sheenjack and in the Canadian portion it
32 probably will reach that -- the passage goal that we have for
33 Canada. But the Tanana River run looks kind of weak.

34
35 As far as subsistence surveys, we're doing those all
36 across the drainage now. They'll probably continue until early
37 November. And from what we've seen so far and what we've heard
38 this season, the subsistence needs look like they were met for
39 everything probably. The only place that could be a little bit
40 late might be the fall chum in the Tanana drainage, because the
41 run is fairly low there. But kings, cohos and summer chum look
42 good for subsistence.

43
44 One other thing is we had several cooperative projects
45 this year. We had a new -- some of that Bering Sea money,
46 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association money was given to the
47 Emmonak Tribal Council, and they hired a person that worked
48 with us in Emmonak and it was a real good experience for that
49 person. We really had a good experience with it. It was a

50 good deal for us, and it was a good deal for the tribal council

0126

1 to get somebody on for them. And then we have the Mountain
2 Village test fisheries during the fall season, and then the two
3 projects that are pretty close cooperation are the Nulato tower
4 with the Nulato Tribal Council, and the Kaltag tower. And then
5 we have several upper river test fish wheels that are
6 cooperative projects with villages upstream.

7
8 Finally, as Mike mentioned earlier, the Board -- the
9 Fisheries Board will be meeting in December, and it will be
10 real important to get comments from advisory committees on
11 regulation proposals this fall.

12
13 I guess one other thing for the Hooper Bay herring
14 fishermen, there is one Board of Fisheries' proposal on
15 herring, and that is to open the outside waters outside
16 Kokechik Bay, and so there could be commercial fishing outside
17 of the bay. And that was put in by Robertson, and that would
18 be to open the outside waters of Kokechik Bay to commercial
19 fishing for herring.

20
21 And that's all I have. Thanks.

22
23 MR. KRONE: Mr. Chairman, members of the Regional
24 Council, I'll respond to your chairman's question about the
25 U.S./Canada process.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There must be some question here we
28 would like to ask?

29
30 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

33
34 MR. MANUMIK: That proposal he was talking about, Don,
35 that proposal you mentioned, the outside waters, is that beach
36 or.....

37
38 MR. BERGSTROM: They'll be opening it from -- right now
39 it's only open inside Kokechik Bay, from the cape going in, for
40 commercial fishing. And if the closed waters was deleted, that
41 would open it from Dull Point to 62 degrees north, which would
42 be into Scammon Bay, so Scammon Bay would be open, and then
43 outside of Cape Romanzof down to Dull Point would be open for
44 commercial herring.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's for herring?

47
48 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah.

49

MR. MANUMIK: Is that purse seining or it would be

0127

1 beach.....

2
3 MR. BERGSTROM: Gillnet.

4
5 MR. MANUMIK: It would be gillnet.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gillnet.

8
9 MR. MANUMIK: Okay.

10
11 MR. BERGSTROM: It's all gillnet.

12
13 MR. L. WILDE: Is that a permit only fisheries out
14 there, and would that be continued? If so, would that continue
15 being just a permit?

16
17 MR. BERGSTROM: Right. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilde, it
18 would be -- it's still a limited entry. It would be just the
19 same fishery, it would just be a bigger open area.

20
21 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom?

24
25 MR. KRONE: Mr. Chairman, Tom Krone with Alaska
26 Department of Fish & Game. A brief overview of the U.S./Canada
27 process.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

30
31 MR. KRONE: Discussions with the Canadians began in
32 1985, and Mr. Wilde has participated in this process since the
33 start, been a key figure in the work that's been done there.
34 Others here that have helped, Johnny Thompson has helped,
35 Lester Wilde has helped. A lot of people on the river have
36 been involved. Currently I think we have 22 advisors that are
37 participating in the process, providing advice to the
38 U.S./Canada process. I think a lot of familiar names to many
39 of you. Regner (ph) Alstrom and Harry are the two panel
40 members connected with this process from the lower river.
41 Joseph Huntington and Harold Simon are the two panel members
42 from the upper river, so it's balanced between lower and upper.
43 There are six people on the panel. Basically the public
44 fishermen members are four of the six. The State has one seat,
45 the Federal Government has one seat, and basically the public
46 fishermen have four seats on the panel.

47
48 The process started in 1985 and the thinking behind it
49 was that a lot of the fish that head up the Yukon River

50 actually spawn in Canada. In the case of the king salmon,

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1 about half, and it varies from year to year, but about half of
2 the king salmon spawn in Canada. A lesser amount of the fall
3 chums spawn in Canada. But in any case, you know, it makes
4 sense to work together with the Canadians to make sure that,
5 you know, those fish continue to spawn, and that we've got a
6 good healthy run for fishermen both in Alaska and Canada to be
7 able to use just as they have for hundreds and hundreds of
8 years.

9
10 Currently we have an interim agreement with the
11 Canadians. That interim agreement is set to expire here at the
12 end of the year, so there's a negotiation session scheduled in
13 two weeks to basically relook at the situation, decide what to
14 do from here. If no action is taken, the agreement expires,
15 and basically we loose the assurance we've got for, you know,
16 protecting the spawnings, those kinds of things that I think
17 are important to Alaskan fishermen, and the Alaskan public that
18 utilize those resources, as well as the Canadians. But in any
19 case, you know, Harry and the other advisors along with staff
20 will be sitting down with the Canadians in two weeks to start
21 to talk about that process again.

22
23 Under the interim agreement, a panel was established,
24 and as I mentioned, for the lower river Regner Alstrom and
25 Harry Wilde are the two panel representatives that participate
26 in the process. We also have alternate panel members and
27 advisors who participate and support Harry and Regner, too.

28
29 But under that process, they have monies that are used,
30 that are provided basically to help restore and enhance the
31 salmon on the Yukon River. The salmon that basically that are
32 bound for Canada, but there are different things that can be
33 done both in Alaska and in Canada. The last -- last winter was
34 the first round of consideration of these funding sources. The
35 joint panel, the U.S. and the Canadian panel agreed to fund
36 just over a half million dollars worth of projects, but there
37 were very few projects from Alaska. There were ten projects
38 proposed by the Canadians for every one project proposed by
39 Alaska. And I guess what we have been trying to do is
40 encourage fishermen's groups and communities here in Alaska to
41 submit proposals for consideration by the fund.

42
43 Unfortunately, there was a deadline for proposals, and
44 it was through the end of September, so basically we've gone
45 through another proposal process. I was just talking to Mary
46 Pete this morning. It sounds like we have had more Alaskan
47 proposals than we did last year, but still I think it will be a
48 small percentage compared to the number of proposals that the
49 Canadians have.

0129

1 But I think again -- you know, I appreciate the
2 opportunity to talk, and I guess would encourage fishermen and
3 village representatives to think about things that they might
4 do to propose to restore and enhance these king and chum salmon
5 that are bound for Canada the next time around. There will be
6 another proposal process starting up here this winter and next
7 spring, so something to think about.

8
9 Is that good enough, Harry?

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just about. Do anyone here have a
12 question? John Thompson?

13
14 MR. THOMPSON: Could you update on Andreafsky weir?

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: If you make it louder, I know that
17 it's a very important to have of what we have a meeting about
18 subsistence, you know. Let everybody hear, not answer to the
19 front people, 'cause I want everybody here that's what they're
20 talking about. Not right in front of you. We can't hear back
21 there, you know. Let everybody hear when you talk. Let
22 everybody hear that what you have questions, what you are
23 talking about. Let everybody hear that's back here. We want
24 to learn, we want to hear something. When you answer, let
25 everybody hear what you have to answer about. That's the way
26 which is very important we have a meetings, every meeting that
27 you have, it's important. Let everybody learn about it, let
28 everybody hear about it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson? Yeah. Okay.

31
32 MR. KRONE: Mr. Chairman, would you like me to repeat
33 what I just said very quickly?

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

36
37 MR. THOMPSON: Could you give us a little bit of
38 highlight on escapement for South Fork?

39
40 MR. BERGSTROM: Okay. Mr. Chairman, John, I don't have
41 the East Fort Andreasky. There's a weir project, and it's Fish
42 & Wildlife Service runs it, and they have personnel from I
43 think Mountain Village and St. Mary's. They try to get local
44 people working on it. And I don't have the numbers with me, so
45 I'm just trying to remember about what they were. I think it
46 was around 4500 kings and maybe 45,000 summer chums. It
47 was.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah.

0130

1 MR. BERGSTROM:pretty low on the summer chums.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me recommend something here. (In
4 Yup'ik) Go ahead.

5

6 MR. BERGSTROM: I think there was about 45,000 summer
7 chum, which is pretty low. We probably want closer to 100,000
8 summer chum. And I believe that cohos ended up around 11,000
9 that reached. Of interest, it took a long time. There was
10 just a few cohos going in and then towards the end of August
11 there was pretty much just a couple days where most of the coho
12 went in. And I think they ran until about the 12th of
13 September, 15th, somewhere around there. But that was the main
14 thing is the chums were fairly low. And then the water was
15 very low, and I think that was through the Kuskokwim drainage
16 and Yukon, both of them, that the tributaries were really low
17 water this year, which is really a difference from normal. And
18 then we heard from quite a few places that the water
19 temperature had gotten pretty high, like in the Anvik River.
20 The fishermen said that the water was a lot warmer than usual,
21 too.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Do you know
26 was that by sonar on that, by sonar, on the -- in the river?

27

28 MR. BERGSTROM: The Pilot Station sonar?

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: In the river. How -- like how
31 efficient are those sonars that -- are -- do they work
32 consistently or (Indiscernible, away from microphone)?

33

34 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, as far as -- you know, there's
35 some projects, sonar projects that are in the smaller
36 tributaries, like the Anvik River, for doing summer chums in
37 the Yukon, and that one we feel pretty comfortable with,
38 because they can see out -- a distance out into the water, so
39 it's not real dirty water, and they can see a ways, and they
40 can really calibrate the sonar to what fish are going by. And
41 we're pretty comfortable with that one.

42

43 Of course, you get Pilot Station and the Yukon, you
44 can't see the fish, you know. They're in the water, but you
45 can't see them. But this year the sonar project appeared to
46 work pretty well. I don't have the numbers on that either, but
47 in season it was getting up a good 150,000 kings I think and
48 this looks like that's about how many there were, was the sonar
49 had. It was indicating a really good king run, and it worked

50 pretty good. It did indicate though there was a pretty high

0131

1 number of gaps (ph) but there were good over-all numbers for
2 kings.

3
4 Summer chum-wise, it looked real reasonable. There was
5 some problems though at the end of June when we had all those
6 logs come down the river from the high water from rain up in
7 the Porcupine and in the Tanana River, so there were some down
8 time there where they had to pull the gear out so the logs
9 wouldn't ruin the equipment. So we estimated that the summer
10 chum run was probably around 1.6 to 2 million fish from the
11 sonar, and that's what it looks like was in probably the run,
12 adding up the catch and the escapement projects that we monitor
13 the streams, so it looked like it worked pretty good.

14
15 Fall chum-wise yet we don't really know for sure yet
16 how well it did. It looked pretty good in the season, it was
17 about 620,000 fish, full chum. And which indicated it wasn't
18 that good of a full chum run. It certainly wasn't as good as
19 these last couple of years. So, you know, it looks like it was
20 pretty close to counting what was out there this year. But
21 there's definitely, you know, some up and down. I mean, just
22 the project itself when we say 620,000, it's probably more
23 like, you know, the actual estimate would be like 570 to
24 670,000. You know, it's not an exact number. There's a range.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Quyana. Next on our
27 agenda is task force report, Federal Subsistence Board
28 restructure. (In Yup'ik).

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, the text for this one is
31 found in your booklets at tab F. And I'm going to just talk
32 very quickly about the three alternatives. There's more
33 analysis of those alternatives in the materials, if you would
34 like to read additional details at a later time.

35
36 This is a question of changing the structure of the
37 Federal Subsistence Board. This topic was initiated by the
38 North Slope and Northwest Arctic Regional Councils. They
39 suggested that the Federal Subsistence Board should be made up
40 of subsistence users. And this question was raised about two
41 years ago. More recently the subsistence regional council
42 chairs met with the Federal Subsistence Board in April of this
43 year, and they said maybe add one regional council chair to the
44 existing Federal Board to make a total of seven members. And
45 the Federal Board agreed to examine this question, to have a
46 task force that would look into it. I think I just told you
47 that.

48
49 The task force that has been examining the question of

50 restructuring the Subsistence Board was made up of the Chairman

0132

1 of the Board, Mitch Demientieff from Nenana, Bill Thompson --
2 Bill Thomas, excuse me, he's the chair of the Southeast
3 Regional Council. Jim Caplan is the Federal Board member from
4 the Forest Service, and Dave Allen is the Federal Board member
5 from the Fish & Wildlife Service. This was the group that was
6 set aside to work on the question of restructuring. Their goal
7 was to identify options and legal constraints or problems that
8 might be involved in some options.

9
10 They met in June of 1997, and they reviewed some
11 background information. This first one is the Federal Advisory
12 Committee Act, and it's a federal law that governs regional
13 advisory councils like the subsistence councils, so they wanted
14 to look into any framework or sideboards from the Federal
15 Advisory Committee Act. The task force also examined other
16 examples from the State Board of Fish, or some Canadian
17 management boards.

18
19 The task force thought there were two very important
20 legal problems to be careful about. The first one is here, the
21 delegation of regulatory authority. In federal laws, the
22 federal decisionmakers, federal rulemakers have to be federal
23 employees. If the rulemaking authority is delegated down to
24 nonfederal employees, then it would become an advisory body,
25 not a regulatory body. To make federal regulations, the
26 membership has to be federal employees. And so the options
27 have to be careful not to water down the Federal Subsistence
28 Board to where it would lose its decision-making authority.

29
30 The second constraint is one that there is a limitation
31 on the establishment of new advisory committees. Right now
32 under budget constraints if you start a new advisory committee,
33 you have to end one.

34
35 And so together these kind of shape the options that
36 the task force brought back. They want to retain decision-
37 making authority for the Federal Board and they don't want to
38 slip backwards into just an advisory board for the federal
39 subsistence program.

40
41 So this is what you're going to be asked to give us
42 some comments on, some feedback. There are three alternatives
43 that this task force came up with. One is to leave it alone,
44 the existing Federal Subsistence Board, and that's made up of
45 five Federal Government directors: the state director of the
46 Park Service, the BLM, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the
47 National Park Service and the Forest Service, plus one more
48 chair appointed by Secretary of Interior, and that's Mitch
49 Demientieff from Nenana. So that's the six members right now.

50 Option one would leave it along. No change.

0133

1 Option two would add to the existing board at least one
2 regional council chair nominated by the council chairs. And
3 this option is actually the one that the regional council
4 chairs recommended last April, in April of '97.

5
6 And then the third option would be the existing board
7 plus one subsistence users plus one representative appointed by
8 the Governor of Alaska.

9
10 What we would like to do is get any comments from the
11 Regional Council and write them down, and then give that
12 feedback to the task force. They will meet one more time, and
13 then forward their report to the Federal Subsistence Board. It
14 would be for discussion in April again between the council
15 chairs, all ten of the council chairs and the Federal Board
16 when you guys have a joint working session. So we'd like to
17 have any comments, and we'll write them down and hand them on
18 to the task force for their work. That's the pitch, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I ask who are the task force?

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. The members again were the Board
24 chair, Mitch Demientieff, Bill Thomas from the Southeast
25 Regional Council, Jim Caplan from the Forest Service, Federal
26 Board member now, and Dave Allen, the Federal Board member for
27 U.S. Fish & Wildlife.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is those task force are appointed by
30 the Governor?

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: No, no. No, this one -- this started
33 when you guys talked to the Federal Board in April. Mitch said
34 there's some good ideas here. I want to follow up on it. And
35 he said, let's have a task force, and I think the council
36 chairs recommended Bill Thomas at that time. And then Mitch
37 volunteered, and the other Board members volunteered. So this
38 is all from the Federal Subsistence Board and the regional
39 council chairs. Paul, do you have.....

40
41 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, Mr.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

44
45 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, Taylor, I have -- in the
46 background it says here that since 1995 that the existing Board
47 that Harry asked about is not responsive to the natives
48 subsistence users concerns, and that makes me concerned about
49 how that Board is structured. I don't think the Forest Service

50 should be in there, on the Board. They don't know anything

0134

1 about subsistence users.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: The criticism that the Federal Board
4 doesn't understand subsistence users has been raised from the
5 beginning, and still people complain. They say we have to
6 educate the Board, they don't know about our way of life. So
7 that's certainly an on-going criticism, and that's why the
8 looking, examining some alternatives. The structure of the
9 Board now is actually laid out in regulations signed by
10 Secretary Babbitt, so it would change a change in those
11 regulations to restructure the board. And the current
12 structure is based on the idea that these are the five federal
13 land holders, five federal land managing agencies in Alaska.

14

15 And the Forest Service, the example that you point to,
16 they have responsibility for some forest lands mostly in
17 Southeast Alaska, the Tongass National Forest, and also in
18 Prince William Sound and part of the Kenai Peninsula, the
19 Chugach National Forest. So they have a lot of involvement
20 with subsistence users with Tlinget-Haida Central Council, with
21 organizations in Southeastern Alaska and Prince William Sound/
22 South Central. They don't have very much involvement in
23 Western Alaska or Kodiak/Aleutians or North Slope.

24

25 But that was the reasoning for the original structure
26 of the Federal Subsistence Board in 1990, the five federal
27 managing agencies plus one chair appointed by the Secretary.
28 It could be changed. That's the purpose, that's why we need
29 the feedback and your views.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

32

33 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, let me ask you one more question
34 now. The Southeast Regional Council member that was put in
35 there, who approved that?

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: The ten regional council chairs met
38 together on Sunday, I think April 6th, and then they met in a
39 work session with the Federal Subsistence Board on Monday,
40 April 7th. And this discussion took place on that Monday. I
41 think the council chairs appointed Bill to speak for them
42 during that work session, and whether they elected him or
43 ratified his selection, that I actually don't know. But all
44 the chairs were there in the room. Other people could have
45 volunteered or tried to add another chair for the meeting and
46 so on. It was mostly at the initiative of the council chairs
47 that Bill was the representative.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I say something? I don't think he

50 was appointed by the chairs. I think someone has recommend him

0135

1 be on, but.....

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: But not voted. He's not voted by.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, it wasn't voted. No.

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Good clarification.

8

9 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

12

13 MR. GEORGE: It seems like I was in that meeting taking
14 the chairman's place, right? And when the chairs were meeting
15 on Sunday, yeah, we came up with the recommendation to seat the
16 regional chairs in the place -- to replace the Subsistence
17 Board with the regional chairs.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That was, yeah, second time while you
20 was there.

21

22 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's the time that the make decision
25 I think.

26

27 MR. GEORGE: Uh-hum. Then it was going to be
28 discussed, and simply voted by the regional chairs instead of
29 the Federal Subsistence Board dictating to the regional chairs,
30 and come up with that task force. I don't remember hearing
31 about the creation of the task force until now.

32

33 MR. BRELSFORD: I think.....

34

35 MR. GEORGE: Because one of the things is that the
36 problem with the Federal Subsistence Board is whenever the
37 alternate comes up to take somebody place, the alternates got
38 to learn, he's got to be educated, and it's continuing. The
39 reason why Sheldon Katchetag came up with this proposal is so
40 they don't waste time educating who's going to be alternating
41 for the certain subsistence member, the Board member.

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. I think what you recall is the
44 1996 discussions, and in 1997 when the council chairs met, they
45 made a new proposal, the one member added to the Board rather
46 than the whole replacement. What you described was in the
47 annual report from North Slope, and I thought it was Northwest
48 Arctic. Maybe it was Seward Pen.

49

50 MR. GEORGE: No, it was Bering Straits.

0136

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Seward Pen.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: It came from the Seward Peninsula, yeah.

4

5 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. That was the first year. The
6 second year, I know, last year in -- last April in '97 the
7 chairs felt that the whole change was politically unrealistic,
8 and that adding a chair member, adding one seat to the Board
9 was more politically realistical. That was the way they spoke
10 in April of this year.

11

12 But, please, this is for feedback. If you still have
13 strong feelings and concerns, let's write them down and go back
14 to the task force with your feedback.

15

16 MR. GEORGE: Who's writing?

17

18 MR. BRELSFORD: Jerry Berg. He's really good at it.

19

20 MR. BERG: Yeah. We're on our second page already.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

23

24 MR. MANUMIK: Okay. I remember Mr. George here
25 reporting that Bill Thomas was added to the.....

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Excuse me for a second. Jerry, why
28 don't you bring the papers up here so that people can see what
29 you're writing. They'll keep you honest. I'm sorry to
30 interrupt, Paul.

31

32 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. I remember Mr. George reporting
33 about Bill Thomas being let to the Board. Or added onto the
34 Board in his report. Now hearing Sheldon Katchetag's
35 recommendation to have the regional chairs on that Board is
36 what I would go for.

37

38 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. So one feed back is the ten
39 council chairs should be on the Board.

40

41 MR. MANUMIK: On the Board.

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD: Also with the Federal members or
44 instead of? Just.....

45

46 MR. MANUMIK: Take those Forestry people out, leave
47 Mitch Demientieff in there, and wipe out the rest and put these
48 people in.

49

MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. So the proposal is ten council

0137

1 chairs plus the current Federal Board chair?

2
3 MR. MANUMIK: Yes. Uh-hum.

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

6
7 MR. MANUMIK: That way it'll be more responsive to what
8 our concerns are from our own villages. That's my opinion. I
9 don't know how the rest feel about this. But I think that I
10 would go for that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This task force, one of the members
13 here, what he would like to see is that the task force that are
14 all are to be composed -- he would like to see that the -- take
15 away all of the Board members, but keep Mitch Demientieff, but
16 add ten.....

17
18 MR. MANUMIK: That isn't what I said there. The
19 current Board should not sit on the Board, but the chair.

20
21 MR. BERG: Just the chairs and not Mitch?

22
23 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah.

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: Just the chair, that is just Mitch.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: So you're saying current board chair,
30 (Indiscernible, away from microphone)

31
32 MR. BERG: Oh, I'm sorry.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ten council chairmans, remove all the
35 rest of the members, but keep.....

36
37 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, that Bill Thomas. I know Bill
38 Thomas, he's on the Regional Council down in Southeast. He
39 should remain also.

40
41 MR. BERG: Right, he's in there.

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD: He would, because he's one of ten
44 council chairs.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Good. Yeah.

47
48 MR. MANUMIK: That's my opinion. Others, I don't know
49 if they have.....

0138

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How does the rest of the board members
2 feel about this proposal?

3
4 MR. L. WILDE: Since Taylor explained to us earlier why
5 those people have to be involved on the Board and why the task
6 force was formed the way it was, and since there was only three
7 choices that they gave us, the task force,.....

8
9 MR. MANUMIK: Three options, yeah.

10
11 MR. L. WILDE: He explained that the reason why the
12 existing Board was made up the way it was, was because of --
13 was that federal law stated that they must be federal
14 employees?

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct, for rule-making authority.

17
18 MR. L. WILDE: And since that is one thing that we're
19 going to have to fight for restructure, I think the only
20 consideration that would come close to reality is probably the
21 third comment that was made or the third suggestion of the
22 existing Board and one subsistence user and one representative
23 nominated by the Governor. That would give us one, at least
24 one more subsistence user and possibly, depending on what the
25 -- who the governor's buddy is at the time, his buddy might be
26 a subsistence user also. So we might be able to get at least
27 two subsistence users in there by going with the third option.

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: Should we write down one member
30 supports option number three?

31
32 MR. L. WILDE: I would support it, because I know no
33 matter how long we talk and what kind of reasons we give, we'll
34 always have to go by the law and what the Federal Government
35 says, so they've already nixed the idea of having ten regional
36 chair members on there. They've already said no to that. So
37 we might as well go along with the best of three here.

38
39 MR. BERG: One council member -- what was.....

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: Feedback, one member, one council
42 member here supports option number three.

43
44 MR. MANUMIK: Okay. Question?

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul?

47
48 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, Taylor, on the
49 reports that were given by Mr. George, after having attended

50 the regional -- Federal Subsistence Board meeting, he stated

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1 that the Forest Service and National Park Service have always
2 had to be educated during the course of the meeting about the
3 way of -- our subsistence way of life in the villages. And
4 that takes a lot of time. That is why I was recommending that
5 the ten co-chairs -- or ten chairs, regional chairs be on that
6 Board.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

9
10 MR. MANUMIK: To avoid the.....

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: I think this would be kind of a
13 rationale here, to avoid educating the federal members.

14
15 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, the problem with having
16 the suggesting ten council chairs being on there, we'd have to
17 go to Washington, D.C. to get the whole law changed in order
18 for us to get the ten chairs in there. And once the ten
19 chairmen get on that Board, they will not be a board, they will
20 be what we are, advisors only. That's what it states in the
21 law. That's what he said earlier.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) appointed by.

24
25 MR. MANUMIK: No, once they are appointed by Interior,
26 then they're not advisors, they are Federal Subsistence Board.

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I don't mean to debate
29 with you, Paul. The legal analysis that the task force
30 received, and it is detailed in further specifics in the paper,
31 is that if the Board was made up of the ten chairs, there's a
32 very significant risk that it would become advisory rather than
33 regulatory, rather than rulemaking.

34
35 Mitch Demientieff actually asked us to try to explain
36 this carefully. He felt real strongly that the power of the
37 Federal Subsistence Board could fall if we go forward with the
38 idea of the ten council chairs and not the Federal Board plus
39 one or two council chairs. He asked us personally to try and
40 emphasize that to the councils, but some councils feel strongly
41 like you have expressed, Paul, so the feedback coming back is
42 mixed. Some councils have supported option two. Some have
43 said none of those options. We want ten regional council
44 chairs on the Board. Northwest Arctic said they wanted a
45 different lawyer to look at it. So I'm trying to be even-
46 handed with you about the information, but the legal analysis
47 provided to the task force, and Mitch's personal views were to
48 not monkey with this and make it worse by accident. He felt
49 that something, an option two or three is more politically

50 realistic. But again, it's your opportunity to speak in your

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1 own voice to provide your feedback.

2

3 MR. MANUMIK: I would not support anything to do with
4 the State, because we're in conflict with the State as it is
5 right now. If I'm going to vote -- support any of these I
6 would go for option two.

7

8 MR. BRELSFORD: I think object to number three
9 involving the State and then a second line, support number two.

10

11 MR. MANUMIK: Oh, can we modify any of these options?

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

14

15 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Wilde? The other Wilde, the far
16 Wilde wanted option three, with a subsistence user. Why can't
17 we -- that be an option, too?

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD: That I think is a valid suggestion,
20 Paul. Jerry, under option two, this last one you just wrote,
21 have the subsistence user -- including a subsistence user
22 rather than a council chair.

23

24 MR. MANUMIK: I don't know what the rest feel, but I'm
25 against it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: George?

28

29 MR. GEORGE: Taylor, the existing Federal Subsistence
30 Board, where is it written in Title VIII of ANILCA that the
31 directors of these five -- the five federal agencies is going
32 to be -- have a chair in that position, because it seems like
33 whenever I read that text in there so I always come up with
34 that these, the people who's going to be (In Yup'ik). That the
35 person's that's going to be sitting at the Federal Subsistence
36 Board member should be -- should know the subsistence way of
37 life. Like some of those except with the exceptions for Mitch
38 and Niles, the rest are eating from the -- living from the
39 store. Do you know what it is I'm talking about?

40

41 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah. I think what you're referring
42 too, I'm looking at the training manual that you guys have that
43 has the regulations as a reference, and the section that says
44 Federal Subsistence Board, it says the Secretary of the
45 Interior and Secretary of Agriculture hereby establish and
46 delegate responsibility for administering the subsistence
47 taking and use of wildlife on public lands to the Board. And
48 then the next section says the voting membership of the Board
49 shall consist of a chair to be appointed by the Secretary of

50 the Interior with the concurrence of Secretary of Agriculture,

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1 the Alaska Regional Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
2 Service, the Alaska Regional Director of the National Park
3 Service, the Alaska Regional Forester, U.S.D.A. Forest Service,
4 the Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management, and the
5 Alaska Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Each member of
6 the Board may appoint a designee. That's the law that governs
7 the structure of the Federal Subsistence Board.

8
9 I think the part of ANILCA that maybe you're thinking
10 of is the one.....

11
12 MR. GEORGE: The original as it was written?

13
14 MR. BRELSFORD: No, the statute. You know that every
15 law leaves some details to be worked out in regulation, so you
16 have to read the law, then you have to read the regs. The law
17 says some things about it requires that an administrative
18 structure be established for the purpose of enabling rural
19 residents who have personal knowledge of local conditions and
20 requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of
21 fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses on the public lands.
22 I'm sure you remember that. That's very important language.
23 That's actually referring to the regional councils.

24
25 So when you get in Section 805, then it talks about the
26 council membership. It says each council shall be composed of
27 residents of the region and have the following authorities.
28 And it refers to their expert knowledge about local uses and
29 conditions. So I think the idea of rural residents have a role
30 in management is through the regional advisory council program,
31 and the Board structure is delegated by the Secretary to these
32 directors of the five wildlife management -- of the five land
33 managing agencies.

34
35 That's kind of the framework which we're faced with.

36
37 MR. MANUMIK: Uh-hum.

38
39 MR. BRELSFORD: This is an effort to tweak it, to try
40 and accept some hard political realities and make some small
41 improvements. Some councils are buying this, some councils are
42 saying get us a different lawyer. So I would simply welcome
43 you guys to speak your mind on it, and we'll pass it on to the
44 task force.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. What -- He's pondering over
47 which direction to go to the Council here. Which of those
48 options are we going to -- are they going to support, so it is
49 up to the Council here to select one of the options. If they

50 don't, he will be sitting with no direction to go, so it would

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1 be best for them to point out one of the options for them to
2 go, acceptable.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think the biggest brick
5 wall we have is that federal law prohibits the delegation of
6 regulatory authority to individuals who are not federal
7 employees. That's the biggest problem we have.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: And since we have that problem, that
12 being the biggest problem, the suggestion of the ten board
13 chairs would set us back I think. My opinion.

14

15 MR. MANUMIK: There's been hands in the audience.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You're trying to choose one of the
20 options here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: They are trying to decide which
23 option.

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What Paul Manumik is trying to
26 propose for. He's pointing out that to consider perhaps number
27 three. He's feeling that the last option would be somewhat
28 acceptable as a use.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Harry's just sitting down here and
31 listening, you know, which direction to go. He feels that if
32 the Council here does not find out -- does not point out any of
33 those options, he would be completely out of the way.

34

35 MR. THOMPSON: He -- Johnny Thompson is saying that
36 what power they have been given should not be lessened, so the
37 direction to go is for them to go for something that they have
38 a little power in. So if they're just an advisory they would
39 not have any regulatory authority. It would be wise to go for
40 something that would allow them to have somewhat power to
41 exercise. He himself does not understand the sentences (ph)
42 they use when they are technical terms when they are in use.

43

44 INTERPRETER: There he goes again.

45

46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He realizes that he's not going to
47 -- he's not going to -- the native point, he himself have been
48 subsistence hunting for all his life, and those are sitting
49 down here in front of him, and also our counterparts do have

50 stomachs just like ourselves. From the time we -- from the

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1 time he was started out to the time he's on now, his ancestral
2 people have instructed, have set the -- and according to the
3 ancestral people, as they would say now these people that are
4 working on this subsistence issue are like they are mindless.
5 If you'll just stand up and go for somebody else's saying and
6 if you sense and feeling, guys should go for somebody's
7 version.

8
9 The natives had the rule of law they decide to go by.
10 And it would not interfere with anybody else's way of life. As
11 he has lived all the old people that he has heard, he has been
12 trying to follow the guidance that he was given by the elders.
13 Since then he has not gotten into conflict with anybody's rules
14 or regulations. That the guidance that he been given was the
15 guideline that he has been living with.

16
17 It seems that long ago one of the elders had said that
18 all the natives will be just like specs of floss in the mouths
19 of white people, and thereby eventually you will see that day.
20 So -- and a lot of times the laws are being established by the
21 people who do not subsistence way of life at all. He himself
22 does not have a mind to speak with, but sometimes he guides his
23 -- he use his own instincts with the guidance of the elders
24 that have guided him to live by. So as he's lived some time
25 along the line, the guidelines and subsistence regulations come
26 about. He himself does not rely on the rules and regulations
27 that are established by the people that don't know anything
28 about subsistence way of life. But the main idea for the
29 native to go by is to play it by the rule from your elders
30 guidance. So if you follow the guidelines that you are given
31 verbally by the elders should be followed, and if you use that
32 method, you will never go into conflict with any other law.
33 Regardless of how far my voice goes, his lifestyle will never
34 change.

35
36 So that's why whenever he make a presentation of this
37 nature, he does not hold back on account of somebody else's
38 feeling. So that direction is to say his peace and be -- and
39 those that are sitting on a chair, for those who are appointed
40 or selected should not falter. Use the guidelines that your
41 ancestral people have guided you by. So it would be wise for
42 the board here to add onto a board member to the Subsistence
43 Board, to add one individual that is knowledgeable in both.
44 Both in subsistence way of life and the one who understand the
45 law.

46
47 And a lot of us natives in the different regions, our
48 ways of life are not the same. Sometimes regardless of how
49 hard you work to go get your food out there, it isn't easy.

50 Sometimes your efforts are fruitless, and that you should not

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1 forget. It isn't easy to obtain food in the sources that --
2 He's saying that all kinds of people and nationalities can
3 bumble away around him, but they will not -- he will not follow
4 what the mumbling is going about, that he will follow his
5 instinct.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester (sic) Wilde. Lester -- I mean,
8 Mr. Wilde is saying that from now on, if you don't follow the
9 agenda, he will be forced to stop whoever it is. They go by
10 the agenda and what they're trying to iron out is the
11 alternative board structure.

12
13 MR. R. WILLIAMS: (In Yup'ik) existing board plus at
14 least one regional council chair nominated by the regional
15 council chairs plus one subsistence user (In Yup'ik). The
16 reason why he's asking is -- he would -- his reasoning for
17 coming over here cost him a lot of money and cost -- and that's
18 why he's coming out to say. And he's always asking for the
19 Regional Council here to consider the lifestyle in our region
20 here. So look at the law first and then which direction to go
21 and study the regulation which will give the Council to have
22 the power.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

25
26 MR. R. WILLIAMS: It's starting to get confusing here,
27 but if you have to make a selection here, why then not do it
28 now and then go into another agenda items.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council chair and one subsistence
31 user.

32
33 MR. R. WILLIAMS: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Yeah. Bill?

36
37 MR. McCANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Billy McCann.
38 Billy McCann, he say dimly understand what the direction
39 they're -- and the board -- regardless of these options, this
40 Regional Council will not be forgotten. He say if there's an
41 individual from one of the regional councils, I guess they
42 would be recognized. He feels that it would be better to go by
43 -- to make an option or addition to one of those choices to
44 have at least one -- allowing for one member to be not a
45 federal employee, but a subsistence user.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Go ahead.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew is trying to -- he's saying

50 that to assist the public here how they can understand it

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1 better, how the structure came about. When these were made,
2 the guidelines were used to establish this regional options
3 here. This -- we do have Subsistence Board right now, but
4 those are the foundation. Don't change those, or on the other
5 -- add one of the council chairs from one of the regions, the
6 one who is selected. And the third -- oh, add one addition,
7 add one subsistence user and Governor appointee. These were
8 established using guidelines. So in addition that it was open
9 for you to comment, but I hope he makes the people understand
10 how he explains the structure.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So Harry Wilde is saying that if these
13 can be altogether changed or if they cannot be changed. These
14 council members are the ones that are going to be voting which
15 direction to go. Which one of those are they going to select,
16 one of those options.

17
18 MR. JOHN: So he's saying I think they have discussed
19 it far enough to understand those of you. You are all users,
20 subsistence users.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He thinks it's understandable now,
23 it's been discussed long enough for everybody to understand
24 what this is all about. It is not so many people have set
25 their piece, it was starting to get confusing, so which
26 direction to go, but the simple to do now is to go one -- to
27 select one of the options there. The reason why these options
28 were presented to you is the fact that those were the best
29 routes to go, so it is up to the council to go with one of the
30 options where as they could have at least some sort of a power.

31
32 MR. R. WILLIAMS: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. And whoever that need to
35 comment, that little guy over there, his feeling has been hurt.
36 Add one subsistence user. But it's up to the Regional Coun- --
37 I mean, the Council here, one of those needs to be selected.
38 Which one we're going to support?

39
40 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

43
44 MR. L. WILDE: I agree with the suggestion made by the
45 gentleman over there where we have a better opportunity of
46 getting more subsistence users on that Board with the
47 suggestion of option two plus one subsistence user. Change
48 that option, make a third option three,.....

49

MR. McCANN: No, no, no, no.

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1 MR. L. WILDE:existing board, at least one
2 regional council chair nominated by the regional chairs, plus
3 one subsistence user.

4
5 MR. McCANN: Yeah. An option two.

6
7 MR. L. WILDE: Make that.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Option two.

10
11 MR. L. WILDE:an option four.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about that option two right there,
14 the way it is?

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Modified.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that modify with the one
19 subsistence user. Yeah.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's asking that to consider, that
22 he's going for the number two option here, but bear in mind,
23 see, add one subsistence user, will the authority not change if
24 they add one subsistence user, even if the subsistence user is
25 not a federal employee. Will the power of that alter -- be
26 altered if the addition is not a federal employee?

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor?

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, the amended option two
31 looks very similar to the three that was already okay, so I
32 believe the answer to the question is, it's no problem.

33
34 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik) -- oh, excuse me.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. McCANN: So it is about time for all of us to
39 understand, to select one of those options, so make sure that
40 subsistence users knowledgeable both in law and using of
41 subsistence way of life. So we just can't get any old
42 subsistence user. We have to say it one that is knowledgeable
43 both in knowing what the law is all about or the legality of
44 what the laws are all about. At least make reports what
45 happens.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Johnny Thompson?

48
49 MR. THOMPSON: Johnny Thompson said leaning towards the

50 third option.

0147
1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David.
2
3 MR. DAVID: Number two option, David O. David, he's
4 leading towards option two with that addition of one
5 subsistence user.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
8
9 MR. DAVID: One subsistence user.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. He's now going to ask the
12 council to make a motion to select one of the.....
13
14 MR. DAVID: I so move for the number two.
15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: As amended?
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.
19
20 INTERPRETER: Lester Wilde (sic) moved to accept the
21 number two option as amended.
22
23 MR. DAVID: As amended.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David (In Yup'ik)
26
27 INTERPRETER: Oh, that David O. David that made the
28 motion.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And also allowing with the subsistence
31 user.
32
33 MR. CHARLES: Seconded by James Charles.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Discussion?
36
37 MR. NICOLAI: Question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question. Roll call.
40
41 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.
44
45 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik?
46
47 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
48
49 MR. GEORGE: Ilarion Nicolai?

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1 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) yeah. Steven White excused.
4 David O. David?

5

6 MR. DAVID: Yeah.

7

8 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

9

10 MR. McCANN: Yes.

11

12 MR. GEORGE: James Charles? Charlie.

13

14 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

15

16 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

17

18 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

19

20 MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

21

22 MR. JOHN: Yes.

23

24 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

25

26 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

27

28 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, ten yeses, one excused.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion pass. Second option with
31 plus additional.

32

33 For tonight for the last, we're going to take G, Task
34 Force report, State memorandum of agreement. It's tab G on
35 you're booklet there. Who's taking the task force report?

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: If you guys promise to be gentle this
38 time?

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you didn't give us too much.....

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD: Too many options.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Make it short and sweet.

47

48 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

49

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Yeah. Go ahead. This is

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1 the last one for tonight.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. This idea of a memorandum of
4 agreement between the Department of Fish & Game and the Federal
5 Subsistence Board is to try and let the two programs work
6 together. And maybe the best example is the local advisory
7 committees and the regional councils. Many of you guys work on
8 local advisory committees with fisheries biologists, with
9 wildlife biologists. You know how important it is for
10 everybody to work together. That's the main idea here.

11

12 The Department of Fish & Game wrote a letter, we
13 brought you that letter in the winter meeting. Now we have
14 some more specific ideas and maybe you could tell us whether
15 they look like good ideas or if you have some different ideas.

16

17 The benefit would be to reduce the confusion from
18 having different rules on different lands, if they could be
19 closer together, it would be easier for hunters, easier for
20 fishing people. If both governments work together, if the
21 biologists all cooperate on the studies, we would have better
22 information about the wildlife. And we think we could have
23 better proposal analysis, technical work, to bring to the
24 Council, and bring to the Board if those two programs, those
25 two governments could work together.

26

27 So these are the -- this is the guts of it, five or six
28 ideas. One is to see if proposal cycles could be lined up, so
29 you could make a proposal to the Federal Board and the State
30 Board. If you see a problem, you try and address it all at
31 once. Make a proposal to the Federal Board, make a proposal to
32 the State Board at the same time. Get one solution, not have
33 to wait two years to go to the State Board and one year to go
34 to the Federal Board. Try to bring those together.

35

36 Secondly, to coordinate on subsistence surveys and
37 studies, have joint sponsorship of State and Federal
38 Governments in gathering subsistence information.

39

40 Third, to have the local advisory committee send a
41 representative to the subsistence -- to the Regional Council
42 meetings.

43

44 Fourth, see about having one book, one regulation book
45 with both the state and the federal regulations together. So
46 if you look up Unit 18, in one book, you could find both the
47 state regulations and the federal regulations. You don't have
48 two books, you could maybe have one. That's the idea.

49

Another idea is to have ADF&G help us, the federal

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1 staff, in preparing those technical papers that go the Board at
2 the beginning them, and then also to you, by edit and make sure
3 of the accuracy of information in the proposals.

4
5 Another idea, ADF&G has asked to have a representative
6 at the staff committee meeting before the Board meeting.

7
8 And finally there's a very big interest in more
9 coordination for cooperative management plans or joint
10 subsistence management plans like the Kilbuck Caribou
11 Management Plan or the Nushagak Caribou Management Plan. The
12 two governments want to work out some general principles and
13 make more efficient cooperative management programs in new
14 parts of the state.

15
16 So now it's your turn. If those are good ideas, or if
17 you have some other ideas about how to coordinate between the
18 state and federal management programs. Your input, the same
19 thing, will go back to this task force and then to the Board,
20 okay? But what we're asking for is your reaction and your
21 response or your ideas.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any Board recommendation? Any
24 audience recommendation?

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: I knew I'd wear you guys out soon.

27
28 MR. MANUMIK: I have one, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

31
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The Board and then the audience.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

35
36 MR. MANUMIK: One question, Taylor. You said -- you
37 stated we can submit two proposals, one for the federal and one
38 for the state at the same time. What happens with the end
39 results? If one approves and one sets a way that it doesn't
40 agree with what we stated, there is a conflict there. Whereas
41 in the federal side of it, it might be to our benefit. And
42 those two would be in conflict.

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: I think that the best example is where
45 the State Government and the Federal Government and local
46 communities all work together had have one package that went to
47 both boards, like Kilbuck caribou or Western Alaska Brown Bear
48 Management. Everybody agreed in preparing those proposals, so
49 it was very likely for the State Board and the Federal Board to

50 go along with that. What this -- this is a scheduling

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1 suggestion, and I think what their thinking is, that if the
2 schedules line up, we might get more.....

3
4 MR. MANUMIK: Proposals passed?

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, proposals that are identical,
7 that work together between the two systems. To me, this one
8 also kind of touches on that very last one about more
9 coordination of cooperative management or joint subsistence
10 management program, but this one talked to schedule ideas.

11
12 MR. MANUMIK: Now one more further question. Is the
13 State willing to comply with what the federal recommend? In
14 the past, the State has not complied with the Federal
15 Government to our benefit. Never has.

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: I think, Paul, you're looking at the
18 heart of the matter. The Northwest Arctic Council said if they
19 look at subsistence the same way the Federal Government looks
20 at subsistence, then they could work together easy. If they
21 have a different regulation, a different law, a different
22 definition of subsistence, it's going to be hard. So there are
23 some differences in the laws between the State and Federal
24 Government, and some things are not going to work out. They're
25 going to be different final outcomes.

26
27 I think what we're trying to do here is be sure that
28 wherever it is possible, then coordinated action would take
29 place between the two programs. Try and make sure we didn't
30 forget to look at common ground. We just didn't ignore it.
31 We'd explore common ground where it's possible. It's not
32 always going to work. I think it's important to be realistic,
33 that sometimes one board is going to go one way, and another
34 board's going to go another way. But the whole idea of this is
35 to see if we can raise the batting average and get more
36 coordinated programs between the two governments.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David.

39
40 MR. DAVID: If we are going to be affected, what --
41 Alaska natives, if the State and the Federal are going to make
42 rules for us to use, go by, we have got to be involved, too.
43 We are human beings like you. So we don't want to be left out.
44 That's how I look at it. We want to be in it when the State
45 and Federal are planning to come up with rules that will affect
46 my people, we have got to be in there, too. Thank you.

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think that's exactly
49 the point of trying strengthen the involvement of local

50 committees in the programs. Some of the local advisory

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1 committees have suffered from lack of funding. They have not
2 been able to send members to the Regional Council meetings, so
3 part of this approach would be to strengthen the participation
4 of local committees, village representatives by attending the
5 Regional Council meetings.

6
7 I think we should never lose sight of what you're
8 saying, David, of local involvement, local people being the
9 ground of the program, of making those changes.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) John?

12
13 MR. THOMPSON: I think the whole trouble with fighting
14 over things are the proposals are already made and can't be
15 changed and turn it over to us. I think it's better, you would
16 have better communications, if there is any proposal that's
17 done -- draft proposal, and let the people know and see it
18 before approval. I think that's one of the problems. Before
19 we know of it, it's already in law. That's what happens.

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD: That's a good rule. He says consult
22 with the councils first.

23
24 MR. L. WILDE: Taylor, this was just a council update,
25 on the -- it said on the very bottom for subsequent meetings
26 the working group will identify the factors that need to be
27 considered and gather information needed to more fully assess
28 the issues and develop recommendations. The regional advisory
29 councils will be kept informed on the working group procedure
30 as the working group proceeds with its work. Would it be
31 possible to wait until the draft comes out, or does the
32 Regional Council feel that we should get involved from the very
33 beginning to working with the draft, Harry? I don't know how
34 the rest of the Council feels.

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, to help us wrap up,
37 Lester's exactly right. This is early input to the task force.
38 They will prepare a final report with a recommendation, and
39 that will come back to the Regional Councils in the winter
40 meeting. This is early. It's not the last step. It's kind of
41 running the trap line with ten regional councils to get some
42 early input. And the next step would be a report from the task
43 force and some recommendations, and the councils will have an
44 opportunity to react to that before the Board takes action.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So this -- are you giving us just
47 information or.....

48
49 MR. BRELSFORD: We're asking for comments.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE:your are encouraging us to take
2 one of those options?

3
4 MR. BRELSFORD: No, to tell us if there's any red
5 flags, or if there's any gaps, if we're missing any good ideas,
6 or if any of these are really bad, maybe that task force
7 wouldn't go down -- they wouldn't continue in that one, in the
8 bad one. Your input will go to the task force, and then their
9 report will come back for more review before it's -- before
10 Board action. So you can have many comments or only a few
11 comments right now. It's option -- it's your choice, but later
12 on you should have a strong review, strong viewpoint about the
13 outcome.

14
15 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman?

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, James?

18
19 MR. CHARLES: So if the Game Board agrees with our
20 propos- -- work on a proposal and pass regulations to make like
21 bag limit for caribou for five in Unit 18, and the task force
22 get their information from council, and they want it -- the
23 Council want a bag limit of three in Unit 18, would the task
24 force change their mind and work with the State, too, that --
25 the MOA?

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: The task force will make some
28 recommendations to the Federal Board.

29
30 MR. CHARLES: Oh, Federal Board, that's what I mean,
31 not.....

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: And then they disappear. So let's say
34 two years from now, the local advisory committee, Lower Yukon
35 Fish & Game Advisory Committee says bag limit of five to the
36 State Board and the Federal Board says bag limit of three.
37 It's going to depend on what the rationale that the Council
38 gives to the Federal Board. If you identify a biological
39 problem to keep it at three, the Federal Board listens pretty
40 carefully to the Regional Councils, and they may try in the
41 next year to persuade the State Board to go along. It might go
42 the other way. Maybe that local advisory committee would come
43 up to you guys and say, hey, boost it up to five after all. I
44 think we can't predict all of the examples that we would go
45 which way. What we're talking about here is the general idea
46 of trying to connect those two programs a little better.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that because of slow response
49 by Advisory Council here concerning this memorandum of -- State

50 memorandum agreement, I'm going to suggest sleep over this and

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1 come back in the morning and in the morning I want to redo this
2 one, because we're kind of slowing down respond and I think in
3 the morning it will be different. Maybe Advisory Council, they
4 would be talking to other here, you know, with their roommates.
5 So we're going to recess right now until 8:00 o'clock in the
6 morning here, and take over this item. Thank you.

7

8 MR. MANUMIK: One more comment before we sleep? One
9 more?

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, Taylor, the top -- let's
14 see, the top four in the booklet, I have -- I'm willing to take
15 those top four, but I need to have more information on the
16 last, the bottom three.

17

18 MR. BRELSFORD: These ones?

19

20 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah.

21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: Maybe we should think about that and
23 answer it tomorrow.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: I'll be ready tomorrow.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Recess (In Yup'ik) 8:00
30 o'clock.

31

32 (Meeting recessed - 9:15 p.m.)

33

34 *****

35 (END OF DAY'S PROCEEDINGS)

36 *****

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